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THE TIMES OF INDIA

INCLUDES 4 PAGES OF BANGALORE TIMES

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

Pakistan Cricket Board offers ex-captain **Sarfaraz Ahmed role of Test head coach**, which would make the 38-year-old youngest ever in the position, as the team prepares for ICC World Test Championship, **P 16**

Ashmolean Museum of University of Oxford returns **16th-century bronze idol of Saint Thirumangai Alvar**, first purchased in 1967 and later traced to Shri Soundararaja Perumal Temple, with formal handover at India House

Mosiuoa Lekota, South Africa's **former defence minister and anti-apartheid activist**, dies at 77; he was imprisoned on Robben Island along with Nelson Mandela

Karnataka HC quashes trial court orders granting **home-cooked food to undertrials Darshan and Pavithra Gowda** in Renukaswamy murder case, stating such permission requires medical grounds and can't be granted merely on request, P 5

In fastest Finn-ish, Allen powers NZ into T20 World Cup final

PTI

New Zealand's Finn Allen blasted the fastest century in T20 World Cup history in Kolkata on Wednesday as his side hammered South Africa by nine wickets to reach the final on March 8. They will take on the winners of the India-England second semifinal, to be played in Mumbai today. **P 15**

Upset with grandson, man tries to junk his gift deed, HC says no

Clarifying the scope of powers under the senior citizens' welfare law, Telangana HC has set aside orders cancelling a gift deed — relating to a house built on a 247 square yard plot — executed by a grandfather in favour of his grandson. Alleging neglect, the 90-year-old sought cancellation of the deed. Acting on his plea, authorities annulled the document. **P 7**

Over 18.9m people to vote in Nepal today

More than 18.9 million eligible Nepalese will vote on Thursday in crucial general elections, the first since a violent Gen Z-led protest toppled the K P Sharma Oli-led govt last year. Voting will start at 7am and conclude at 5 pm. Counting will start immediately after the ballot boxes are collected. **P 7**

US sub sinks Iranian warship with 180 on board off Sri Lanka, at least 87 dead

Frigate Was Heading Home After Naval Exercise In Vizag

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An Iranian frigate with an estimated 180 Navy personnel on board was sunk in the Indian Ocean by a US submarine on Wednesday off the southern coast of Sri Lanka, killing 87 people. Lankan Navy was able to rescue 32 people on board IRIS Dena. The fate of the remaining crew members is unknown.

IRIS Dena was heading back to Iran after participating in India's International Fleet Review and subsequent MILAN exercise off Visakhapatnam from Feb 18 to 25. "An American submarine sank an Iranian warship that thought it was safe in international waters," US defence secretary Pete Hegseth said. "Instead, it was sunk by a torpedo. Quiet death." Hegseth said the warship was Iran's "prize ship" and described it as "the first sinking of an enemy ship by a torpedo since World War II".

The US announced the withdrawal of non-emergency staff from its consulates in Karachi & Lahore coinciding with the attack on the Iran vessel.

According to Pentagon officials, the strike led to rapid incapacitation of the warship. Sri Lankan foreign minister Vijitha Herath told Parliament ships and air force planes were sent to rescue personnel on the warship. A navy spokesman said when ships reached the location of distress signals, there was no sign of the vessel, there "were only some oil patches and life rafts. We found people floating..."

Iran did not comment on the sinking. At least 17 Iranian naval vessels have been sunk in the conflict, said US admiral Brad Cooper, who leads US military's Central Command.

The toll in Iran has now reached 1,045, an Iranian agency said. Reactions to the widening US assault on Iran remain mixed. "In 2003, a few irresponsible leaders dragged us into an alleged war in the Middle East that brought nothing but insecurity and pain. Our response then must be our response now: NO to violations of international law," Spanish PM Pedro Sanchez posted.

▶Full coverage | P 6 & 14
▶Edit: The Iran War Lesson

TURKIYE WARNS IRAN AFTER MISSILE SHOT DOWN

- The **death toll in Iran has touched at least 1,045**, an Iranian govt agency said
- **Israeli military is planning on at least 'one or two' more weeks of strikes on Iran**, Israeli media said even as Tel Aviv launched a fresh wave of attacks in Lebanon against Hezbollah militia
- The **funeral of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei that was due Wednesday has been postponed** 'in anticipation of unprecedented turnout', state TV said
- The **Revolutionary Guards said Iranian forces had 'complete control' of the Strait of Hormuz**, a vital route for oil and gas supplies
- **Turkish foreign minister Hakan Fidan has warned his Iranian counterpart** in a phone call **that 'any steps that could lead to the spread of conflict should be avoided'** after NATO defence systems **shot down a missile launched from Iran heading toward Türkiye**

Smoke rises from the site of an Israeli airstrike that targeted the Al Lailaki neighbourhood in Beirut's suburbs on Wednesday

- **Karnataka govt files cases against** those who **protested against Khamenei killing**; in J&K, **CM Omar Abdullah urges peace, Mehbooba Mufti burns effigies** of Trump, Netanyahu

IRIS Dena

Sensex closes below 80,000 first time since Aug 2025, rupee at all-time closing low of 92.15

Mumbai: The war in West Asia on Wednesday led to strong selling in the stock market and pushed the rupee to a new all-time low level, while helping lift prices of gold and silver.

With foreign investors aggressively selling stocks in the domestic market, the sensex lost 1,123 points to close at 70,116 points, its first close below the psychologically important 80K mark since late-Aug 2025.

Strong selling by foreign funds, combined with rising crude oil prices which has the potential to weaken India's economic fundamentals, led to the rupee weakening. After falling to a life-low mark of 92.30-to-the-dollar intra-day, it closed at 92.15, a new all-time closing low.

Analysts and economists said it was difficult to predict levels of the leading stock indices and the rupee since geopolitical risks are elevated due to the US-Israel-Iran conflict. **P 12**

Over 1,500 flights cancelled in 4 days, Air India to add seats on key routes

Mumbai: Airlines have stepped up evacuation efforts with more special flights as the crisis in the Middle East continued to disrupt air travel for the fourth day in a row on Wednesday.

As of Tuesday, 1,221 international flights by Indian carriers and 388 by foreign carriers were cancelled, the civil aviation ministry said. It said Indian carriers had planned 58 flights to be operated on Wednesday, which included 30 by IndiGo and 23 by Air India and Air India Express. Amid surging passenger demand, Air India announced it is increasing capacity on key long-haul routes, including services to Toronto, Frankfurt and Paris.

Air Canada has scheduled an additional frequency between Toronto and Delhi between March 7 and March 21. The Canadian carrier will also deploy a larger aircraft on its Toronto–London–Mumbai route.

▶Airlines continue flights, P 6

Petronet, MRPL invoke force majeure clause

India's top gas importer Petronet LNG has issued a force majeure notice to its supplier QatarEnergy and local buyers GAIL, Indian Oil and Bharat Petroleum as its vessels are unable to reach Ras Laffan load port, it said in an exchange filing. Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals (MRPL) too has suspended fuel exports, invoking force majeure clause. **P 12**

Nitish heads for RS, paves way for BJP CM in Bihar

Kumar Rakesh, Madan Kumar & Manoj Chaurasia | TNN

New Delhi/Patna: Less than four months after **Nitish Kumar**, along with PM Modi, led NDA to a landslide win in the Bihar assembly elections in Nov and took oath as CM for a record 10th time, 'sushashan babu', who turned 75 recently, is set to move to the Rajya Sabha — paving the way for the BJP to have its own CM in the state for the first time ever, and extending its jurisdictional imprint across almost all of north and central India. His son Nishant is set to enter politics by joining the govt; speculation abounds that he might be named deputy CM.

People in the know said Nitish will file his RS nomination in Patna Thursday in the presence of key NDA members, including Union home minister Amit Shah. Four other NDA nominees, including BJP president Nitin Nabin and Union minister Ram Nath Thakur, and Rashtriya Lok Samata Party leader Upendr Kushwaha will also be filing their nominations.

BJP has played second fiddle to Nitish since joining hands with him for the first time in 1996. It chose to allow him to claim the top post despite having more MLAs than JD(U) in 2020 and 2025 in view of his seniority.

Amid concerns over his health, it was always a question of when and not if Nitish would step down, and while the transition has come earlier than expected, the timing was considered within NDA as appropriate as it will give the new team time to settle in. Nishant's entry is aimed at enthusing JD (U)'s rank-and-file amid these uncertain times, and at retaining its base among key sections of backwards and Dalits.

Those clued into the recent developments said the JD(U) brass has acquiesced to its junior status in govt as acknowledgement about a likely change of guard had been growing in the party.

▶RS tenure to kick in, P 7

India's breast cancer cases double in 33 yrs

A 204-country study by the Global Burden of Disease Study Breast Cancer Collaborators, published in The Lancet Oncology, reports that India's breast cancer incidence more than doubled from 13 to 29.4 per lakh women (1990–2023), with deaths touching 74%. Globally, 2023 saw 2.3 million cases and 7.6 lakh deaths. **P 9**

Pak targets Af's Bagram airbase, destroys hangar

Pakistan targeted the Bagram airbase in Afghanistan, and "destroyed an aircraft hangar and two warehouses...," state-run PTV reported. It further said Afghanistan's defence ministry confirmed the airstrike, and claimed Pakistan carried out over 50 airstrikes on military targets in Afghanistan in the past week. **P 14**

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Left with no choice, some busy jns to see right-side driving

Initiative at Garuda Mall A Success: Cops

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Police plan to shift from regular left-side driving to American-style right-side driving on a few Bengaluru roads close to junctions, infamous for congestion, in their latest plan to fight the city's everlasting traffic problem.

So, highly congested junctions like Goraguntepalya on Bengaluru-Tumakuru road could soon see vehicles moving on the right side of the road. Police hope this move will help in reducing congestion and bottlenecks, particularly during peak hours. "Vehicles exiting the city should move more speedily compared to those entering. This ensures empty roads inside, particularly at junctions of the central business district. Thus, vehicles entering the city from different directions can enter at a steady pace," said director-general and inspector-general of police MA Saleem, who is known for his expertise on traffic issues, during an interaction here.

Saleem said police will soon implement the plan between CMT junction (past Jalahalli Circle), Outer Ring Road and Mysuru Road (Nayandahalli junction). "Here, vehicles entering the city from the direction of Tumakuru can use right-side driving on the lane that moves without much disturbance. Earlier, they stopped at regular intervals, including at junctions. Now, with the introduction of right-lane driving, they will not stop at junctions," he told **TOI**.

File photo

The plan will soon be applied between CMT junction (past Jalahalli Circle), Outer Ring Road and Mysuru Road (Nayandahalli junction)

Asked about the feasibility of shifting to right-hand-side driving for a few road stretches in the city, Saleem replied: "It is already in practice opposite Garuda Mall and is very successful."

Saleem said police are continuously working with other agencies like GBA and National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) in a bid to lessen traffic congestion on national highways connecting the city.

"The capacity of city roads is less compared to vehicle density. More use of public transport is the best solution at hand. In Mumbai, 82% of the population use public transport for regular travel. Here, only 47% opt for it. But yes, the govt is making best efforts to increase the modes of public transport," he said.

How does this system work near Garuda Mall?

Introduced about four to five years ago, this system allows vehicles to use right-side driving for a stretch of nearly 400 metres between Mayo Hall-Garuda Mall-D'souza Circle. Here, vehicles moving in the right-side lane from Mayo Hall have a free right turn and reach D'souza Circle without stopping. If this system hadn't been introduced, the vehicles would have to stop at Garuda Mall traffic signal. With one less stop, vehicle movement is free, police said.

Newly hired help flees with gold, cash worth ₹23 lakh

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A newly employed domestic help-cum-cook working at a businessman's residence allegedly fled with gold ornaments and cash worth over Rs 23 lakh. The accused has been identified as Saroj, a native of Bihar.

According to the complaint filed by Meesha Paruthi, a resident of Jakkasandra, the incident occurred on March 1.

Paruthi had been searching for a domestic help and contacted Ranjith, who previously worked as a cook at his residence. Ranjith reportedly recommended Saroj.

Saroj had been staying at Paruthi's residence for the past 10 days and assisting with domestic chores. On March 1, Paruthi, his wife and son, stepped out for dinner. When they returned around 9.30pm, she was missing. They found the bedroom and cupboard doors open.

The accused allegedly stole gold bangles, bracelets studded with diamonds, diamond earrings, a gold ring with a diamond, gold ring with a yellow sapphire, and a gold chain — all worth Rs 20 lakh — and Rs 3 lakh in cash.

A case has been registered at Koramangala police station under BNS Section 306.

Officials reiterated the importance of police verification of domestic workers.

BMTC breaks 25km barrier, drives to towns 40km away

Vajra Vistara May Cover Malur & Solur

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Pics: TOI

EXPRESS SERVICE: 14 AC buses are deployed on the two routes, designed as express trips with limited stops to ensure faster travel

To avoid direct competition with KSRTC, which runs hundreds of non-AC services between Bengaluru and Ramanagara and to onward destinations like Mysuru, BMTC has positioned its services in the premium AC segment

Route name V-EX-RMN -1 Majestic to Ramanagara BUS STOPS	Route name V-EX-KNP Banashankari to Kanakapura BUS STOPS
MRBS	Konanakunte Cross
Nayandahalli	Thalaghattapura
Rajarajeshwarinagar Gate	Silk Institute Metro station
Kengeri	Kaggalipura
NICE Road Junction	Harohalli
Ramanagara	Dayananda Sagar College
	Jain University City Gate
	Kanakapura
Ticket fare ₹95	Ticket fare ₹90

Bengaluru: Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC), lifeline for city commute and restricted to 25km range from city limits, Wednesday pushed boundaries and launched air-conditioned services to satellite towns Ramanagara and Kanakapura under the brand name 'Vajra Vistara'. The name reflects the corporation's expanding jurisdiction.

With this, BMTC will operate its fleet up to 40km now, beyond Greater Bengaluru Area. The new services may cover Malur, Solur and Chikkaballapur, among others.

Transport minister Ramalinga Reddy flagged off the new services at Ramanagara bus stand. A total of 14 AC buses were deployed on the two routes. Officials said the newly introduced services were designed as express trips with limited stops to ensure faster travel.

The Majestic–Ramanagara route will have six stops, with a fare of Rs 95. Five of the six stops are between Majestic and NICE Road Junction. "Once the bus enters the Bengaluru–Mysuru access-controlled highway, it won't halt for nearly 35km until it reaches Ramanagara," an official said.

To avoid direct competition with Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation, which runs hundreds of non-AC services between Bengaluru and Ramanagara and to onward destinations like Mysuru, BMTC has positioned its services in the premium AC segment.

"KSRTC operates several non-AC buses on this corridor. Introducing more non-AC services from BMTC would not make sense. We see demand for comfortable AC travel," a BMTC official said.

BMTC is banking on strong patronage for the Banashankari TTMC–Kanakapura route. The fare for a 50km journey is Rs 90. The service will have seven stops, including Kaggalipura, Harohalli, Dayananda Sagar College and Jain University Gate.

Officials noted that hundreds commute daily between Kanakapura and Bengaluru for work. Unlike other satellite towns, Kanakapura lacks a rail link. Hence, the service is expected to benefit commuters using Namma Metro, with stops at Banashankari, Konanakunte Cross, Talaghattapura and Silk Institute Metro stations.

A BMTC official said that they would conduct joint surveys with KSRTC before introducing new routes and may deploy AC electric buses in the future.

Five of family killed in crash

Five members of a family from Bengaluru were killed after their car crashed into the rear of a truck near YSR Junction in Gangavaram mandal, Andhra Pradesh, Wednesday morning. They were on their way to Tirumala for darshan.

Police said the car got stuck behind the truck and the vehicle was dragged for 40–50 metres before the truck came to a halt. The victims are Mohan Das, 71, Nagaraja Rao, 61, Kusuma, 61, Jayanthi, 59, and Pooja, 33, from Rajajinagar in west Bengaluru.

The truck driver claimed he was travelling at 40 kmph and was unaware that the car had crashed into his vehicle. "Passersby alerted me and I stopped the truck. That's when I saw the car stuck behind my vehicle," the driver told police.

Circle inspector Ram Bhoopal of Gangavaram said preliminary investigation suggested the car was travelling at a speed of 130 kmph, with the speedometer reportedly frozen at that mark after the crash. Police registered a case and informed the victims' relatives in Bengaluru.

Further investigation is under way to ascertain the exact sequence of events leading to the tragedy. TNN

ALMANAC (5.3.2026)

Kumbha Masa 21 – Shri Vishvavasu Nama Samvatsara – Uttarayana – Shishira Ritu – Tithi: Phalguna Krishna Dvitiya h. 17-04 Nakshatra: Uttara Phalguni h. 8-18 Yoga: Sula h. 7-46. 15 Ramadan Kali Day 1872639

Rahu Kalam 1.30-3pm

— KL Vidya Shankara Somayaji

Parents to govt: Fee hike by private schools arbitrary

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Bengaluru: As another academic year looms, there's another round of battle over annual fee hike. With private schools in Karnataka planning 5% to 8% annual revision in tuition fees, parents — already laid low by deepening inflationary trend and increasingly less-benign job market — are urging Karnataka govt to bring in a law to regulate arbitrary, frequent and unscientific fee hikes.

For tuition fee revision, Delhi govt has proposed a structured approach: A committee will propose hikes and school will ratify it. Parents, too, have an equal say in this exercise.

Shocked by up to 15% fee increases annually, many parents fear a similar revision in associated charges: Transport, extra-curricular and school development. Parents alleged schools are openly exploiting the regulatory vacuum.

Household budgets stretched thin, parent groups — and also activists — are urging the Karnataka govt to introduce a transparent and enforceable fee regulation framework on the lines of Delhi's School Education (Transparency in Fixation and Regulation of Fees) Act, 2025 to bring accountability and relief to parents.

Karnataka has 19,000 private schools. While the school education department remained non-committal over regulating fees, many senior officials refused to comment on the issue.

Private schools are not in favour of giving voice to parents in what they call their discretionary exercise.

Delhi govt has proposed structured approach

What does Delhi School Education (Transparency in Fixation and Regulation of Fees) Act, 2025, which is challenged in court, say

- Each school must form a panel every academic year, comprising management representative, principal, three teachers and five parents, and education director as observer
- Management must propose fee for three years; if committee fails to decide on fee by Sept 15, proposal goes to appellate authority

Shocked by up to 15% fee increases annually, many parents in Bengaluru fear a similar revision in associated charges: Transport, extra-curricular and school development. Parents alleged schools are openly exploiting the regulatory vacuum

- Fee to be decided on: location, infrastructure, expenditure on administration and maintenance, teachers' salary, salary increments, reasonable revenue surplus
- Up to Rs 10 lakh penalty if school does not follow the fee thus calculated

"This year may see 5%-8% fee revision, a decision that schools make individually. We condemn schools if they take the hike beyond the normal 15%," said D Shashi Kumar, secretary, Associated Managements of Primary and Secondary Schools of Karnataka.

He attributed the revision to new levies — like fresh water tariff slabs for private unaided schools and new labour laws — amid drop in admissions.

Sijo Sebastian, secretary, Voice of Parents, said school managements collect exorbitant and unjustified fees which have no correlation to actual expenditures. "Despite the Right to Education Act providing scope for transparency and rational fee fixation, the state govt showed no willingness to enforce it effectively. Schools generate revenue almost entirely from fees, which should be strictly proportional to their expenditure. Yet, we saw cases where schools increased fees blatantly," he added.

Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu have also similar regulations, which give an opportunity for the school management as well as the parents to together decide fee revisions. "It is a democratic process. It is a good idea for Karnataka too, as it is one of the pioneers in privatisation," said Niranjanradhya VP, educationist. But he cautioned: "Karnataka has the problem of conflict of interest as many politicians themselves run schools. That could be one of the strong reasons why Karnataka was not able to come up with legislation."

KAMS said such a committee is against the TMA Pai judgment. "Delhi's plan is challenged in court. We are against such a system. Who are parents to decide on a fee hike? It's our discretion," said Shashi Kumar.

Ex-techie dies, husband held

Bengaluru: A 35-year-old former techie, P Sushma, died by suicide Tuesday at her Soladevanahalli residence over alleged dowry harassment.

Based on the complaint filed by her father, TD Prabhakaramurthy, a retired assistant sub-inspector of police, cops arrested her husband, Puneet Kumar, a private company employee.

Married five years ago, the couple has a four-year-old son. Sushma worked as a software engineer before quitting the job a few years ago. According to Prabhakaramurthy, they gave Rs 10 lakh in cash besides gold ornaments as dowry at the wedding. He told in his complaint that Sushma also purchased a car with her money. "Still, Puneet and his mother demanded more dowry. We suspect they killed and hanged her," he told police. TNN

Broken footpaths, open drains, poor lighting plague SJP Road; shopkeepers lose patience

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Bengaluru: A short walk turns into an obstacle course on Silver Jubilee Park Road near KR Market, where shoppers struggle past broken slabs, open drains and dark patches. SJP Road, home to over 2,000 shops and popularly known as Spare Parts Road, continues to be plagued with damaged footpaths months after pipeline works.

From Oct-end to early Nov 2025, BWSSB dug up the roads to lay 900mm sewage pipes and removed slabs for desilting. Nearly three months later, footpaths remain unrestored.

From KR Market bus stop to Town Hall, **TOI** found at least seven such spots, forcing people to walk on roads, feeling unsafe.

TOI

CIVIC APATHY

Ravindra, a shopkeeper, said: "I fell in the drain recently and had to visit the hospital for a week every day for dressing. This is the situation we are facing, and there can be another victim soon if the issue is not fixed."

Amit B, a welding equipment trader for the last 20 years, said: "Earlier I had 10 staff, including six women, and now only three women work with me as many left the job due to such unsafe conditions. We filed multiple complaints and met officials many times, but departments kept passing the buck or cited lack of funds. After chasing this for years, I lost patience and gave up."

Ali Asgar Gheewala, a 42-year-old hardware store owner trading for the last 50 years, said: "We deal in bulky goods that require larger vehicles, but with no proper access path, dispatches are getting affected and customer footfall dropped drastically."

Rahul B Goyal, vice president, Karnataka Hardware & Allied Merchants Association, said: "Many two-wheelers skid and fall. Labourers find it difficult to bring materials and deliver them via pushcart to the main road, since auto tempos/transport aggregators refuse to enter the area. The ongoing work has resulted in a lot of dust, along with debris and rubbish strewn around. It would be good if they put cement on the dug-up portions and introduce mechanised sweeping along with door-to-door waste collection here."

A senior official from Bengaluru Central city corporation said: "BWSSB took a month to repair the pipes and solve the sewage-leaking issue. Initially, work was delayed because the five corporations split. We are working on it and will finish it soon."

Infra boost: 101 skywalks, repair of 137 waterlogging spots proposed

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Bengaluru: Traffic authorities unveiled a major plan to improve pedestrian movement. As part of a comprehensive traffic management initiative, traffic police proposed construction of 101 skywalks at key junctions.

Officials also relocated 103 bus stops that were previously positioned without adequate planning to streamline public transport interfaces and reduce bottlenecks on major roads. The traffic department identified 137 spots prone to prolonged water stagnation during rains for urgent repairs and infrastructure correction ahead of the monsoon season.

GBA chief commissioner M Maheshwar Rao said, "These proposals will be included in the authority's forthcoming budget. We are creating necessary provisions for executing these projects. Waterlogging is a major concern at many spots across the city, and we are addressing this through targeted infrastructure work."

He said, "In areas such as Sindhoor Choultry and Yelahanka, we are using advanced pipe-pushing technology to accelerate work on drains. We hope to see notable progress by June."

GBA is also taking a firmer stance on environmental violations. With summer under way, it announced a new reward and penalty system to discourage burning of garbage. "We are introducing a reward of Rs 250 for citizens who report individuals engaged in garbage burning. This measure is to promote community participation in maintaining a cleaner city. At the same time, we will take strict action if own staff are found to be violating environmental rules."

Poor lifestyle habits take bite out of young adults' teeth

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Bengaluru: Not too long ago, tooth loss, implants and dentures were concerns largely reserved for senior citizens in their 60s or 70s. Today, that assumption no longer holds true. In a troubling shift, dentists are seeing a growing number of patients in their 30s and 40s walking in with missing teeth — and in many cases, the damage is already extensive.

Dental experts point to a mix of modern-day factors driving this trend. Poor oral hygiene remains a primary culprit, lifestyle habits such as smoking and high sugar consumption, and early onset of diabetes further accelerate gum disease and decay.

"It is a trend we have been witnessing over the past couple of years, with patients in their 30s and 40s presenting with significant tooth loss. The use of tobacco products such as beedis, cigarettes and chewing gutka has severely damaged the teeth of many youngsters. When this is compounded by periodontal (gum-related) disease, it leads to loosening of teeth. Once a few teeth begin to loosen, it becomes a downward spiral from there," said Dr Anoop Nair, associate professor, Government Dental College and Research Institute.

AI

MEASURES TO TAKE TO SAVE THAT SMILE

- Brush twice every day
- Interdental cleaning 3–4 times in 48 hours
- Avoid tobacco and its products
- Dental check-up every 6 months

TECH CORRIDOR'S ACHING ISSUE

The worrying trend is evident across the city's tech corridor — HSR Layout, Sarjapur Road and Bellandur — where a growing number of young working professionals are facing dental issues.

"We see a large number of patients under 30 and 40, mostly from the tech sector, who have not visited a dentist in years," said **Dr Venkatesh Garla** of Smylife Dental, a centre for advanced dentistry on Sarjapur Road. "The reasons are usually two: One, they say they are too busy with work. Two, they simply hadn't prioritised dental care."

According to him, nearly 50% of those seeking treatment are under the age of 40. "Most youngsters approach us only when the situation becomes severe, that is when they experience bad breath, loose teeth or even tooth loss. Some come in when decay has already progressed and requires extensive repair."

He stressed that many cases could have been prevented with timely check-ups. "People need to be proactive rather than reactive about dental health," he added, noting that work-related stress further contributes to poor oral hygiene and related complications.

Across the board, dentists flagged poor dental hygiene — leading to periodontal issues — as the primary concern. "We have seen cases where even 25-year-olds have lost a tooth. It has become more common among those in their 30s and 40s, with cases increasing year on year. Around 95–96% of the population has some form of gum disease," said Dr Ashwin PS, periodontist and implantologist at Oral Plus Multispecialty Dental Care.

He noted that most patients do not visit a clinic until their teeth begin to shake, as gum disease often does not present obvious symptoms. "Signs such as bleeding gums or persistent bad breath are frequently ignored until the teeth start loosening," he added.

Dr Madan Nanjappa, professor and head of Oral & Maxillo-Facial Surgery at VS Dental College, said plaque build-up is another major issue. "Poor maintenance leads to accumulation of plaque, which hardens and then starts eating into the tooth. When it attacks the root and the tooth is not supported well enough, then it starts getting loose."

Elaborating on the role of diabetes in tooth loss, he said, "In patients with high blood sugar levels, the condition — along with the medication they are on — can trigger reactions in the body and compromise the immune system. This paves the way for periodontitis which, if left untreated, gradually eats away at the supporting bone."

He, however, stressed that such teeth can still be saved if treated in time, adding that a dental visit every six months can spare patients from tooth loss and the expensive procedures that often follow. He also pointed out that such neglect is more common among rural populations, particularly among those who chew gutka.

Dentists stress that regular brushing and interdental care — cleaning between the teeth — are essential. "Today, there are water flossers that are more effective than regular floss. They come with multiple pressure settings and offer better access to all corners of the mouth," Dr Anoop said.

Insta chat with ex-colleague sparks assault on manager

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MACHETE ATTACK

Bengaluru: A seemingly harmless exchange of phone numbers escalated into a violent machete attack on a 42-year-old apparel store manager in the city recently.

According to the complaint filed by Gopi K, a resident of Murugeshpalya in east Bengaluru, the attack occurred between 12.30pm and 1pm on Feb 27. The accused has been identified as Suresh.

Gopi suffered injuries on his head and face and is recovering after treatment at a hospital on West of Chord Road.

Gopi told police he has worked as a manager at an apparel outlet on Siddhaiah Puranik Road in Basaveshwaranagar for nearly a decade. A former colleague, Ashwini, left the store at the end of 2023 on account of health issues.

Recently, Gopi received a message ("hi") on Instagram from what appeared to be Ashwini's account. After a brief exchange, he was asked to share his mobile number, as it was allegedly deleted from her phone. Soon after, he received a call from a man identifying himself as Suresh, Ashwini's husband. Suresh allegedly abused Gopi, accused him of messaging his wife, and made derogatory remarks about his family. Gopi disconnected the call and blocked the number.

Gopi later informed Ashwini's mother about it. She allegedly asked him to unblock Suresh's number and spoke to him, warning him not to trouble Gopi. However, the following day, when Gopi stepped out of his workplace, Suresh arrived in an autorickshaw, blocked his path and attacked him with a machete. Before fleeing, Suresh allegedly threatened to kill Gopi and his wife if he contacted Ashwini.

HOLI-DAY RUSH: Rlys goes airport mode to ensure smooth boarding

ORDER OF THE DAY: At SMVT in Byappanahalli, entry was permitted for passengers only when the train arrived and was ready for boarding

Anush.S@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: As thousands of passengers flocked to Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal (SMVT) to head home for Holi holidays, many braced for the usual festival mayhem — overflowing platforms, last-minute sprints and frantic searches for coach positions. But this time, they were in for a welcome surprise: an airport-style boarding system, a rare sight at railway stations.

At SMVT in Byappanahalli, the familiar pre-festival rush gave way to orderly queues and regulated entry. In a first-of-its-kind crowd-control measure for Holi, South Western Railway (SWR), in coordination with Railway Protection Force (RPF), introduced a structured boarding model inspired by airports.

Under the new system, passengers were not allowed unrestricted access to platforms. Entry was permitted only when the train arrived and was ready for boarding. Women, children and senior citizens were given priority access, ensuring a safer and smoother embarkation process.

Railway authorities said the move was aimed at preventing the dangerous overcrowding often witnessed during peak holiday departures. "Unlike previous times, additional RPF personnel have been brought in from Hubballi and Mysuru divisions. We're ensuring that queues are strictly maintained, from the ticket counters right up to the train doors," a senior RPF officer from Bengaluru division said.

Behind the scenes, a divisional 'war room' kept a close watch on live CCTV feeds to track crowd build-up in real time. Senior officers were deployed in three shifts to ensure rapid coordination and immediate response to any emerging situation.

Recognising that waiting areas often fall short during festival peaks, the railways created temporary holding zones at SMVT, KSR Bengaluru City, Krishnarajapuram and Yeshwantpur stations.

These additional spaces can accommodate around 300 passengers, supplementing the permanent waiting halls and preventing crowd spillovers onto platforms. "It helps in managing the situation properly. A similar thing was tried during Chhath Puja time but the crowd was too much. It really worked well for Amrit Bharat Express which has more unreserved coaches," said Sumanth Atreyas, a passenger at SMVT station.

Between Feb 27 and March 3, seven major railway stations in the city — KSR Bengaluru, Bengaluru Cantonment, Yeshwantpur, SMVT Bengaluru, Krishnarajapuram, Whitefield, and Kengeri — handled approximately 20 lakh passengers, according to SWR.

SWR will operate a total of 56 Holi special trains comprising 856 trips across various railway zones throughout the month. In addition, special trains comprising 134 trips are being operated in coordination with other railway zones. The trains will connect several important destinations across the country, including Madar, Kollam, Thiruvananthapuram, Kalaburagi, Bidar, Dhanbad Junction, Yog Nagari Rishikesh, Malda, Delhi, Muzaffarpur, Danapur, and Jodhpur, among other important destinations.

Short-distance specials to ease rush on express trains

With high footfall expected especially for long-distance trains, SWR will run 28 short-distance trains as well. These special services are expected to ease congestion on regular trains covering major station pairs such as Hubballi–Vijayapura, Yeshwantpur Junction–Hindupur, KSR Bengaluru City Junction–Ashokapuram, Bangarapet Junction–SMVT Bengaluru, Bengaluru Cantonment–Chikkaballapur, KSR Bengaluru City Junction–Hassan, Yeshwantpur Junction–Hosur, Hospete–SSS Hubballi Junction and Ballari–Davanagere.

BENGALURU SOAKS IN FESTIVE CHEER

Syed Asif, IANS, TOI

People celebrate Holi with a riot of colours, drenching each other in vibrant powders and water across Bengaluru Wednesday. Streets come alive with laughter, music and festive cheer as families and friends join the revelry, turning neighbourhoods into a vivid canvas of celebrations. Many foreigners too had a taste of the cultural festival

23-yr-old kills uncle, tries to pass it off as accidental fall

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Masrur Ahmed (in pic) told police he lost his temper after Pasha abused his mother. He assaulted Pasha, a polio survivor, with his hands, and kicked him repeatedly on the chest and abdomen

Bengaluru: Investigation into the death of a 52-year-old polio survivor in Austin Town, central Bengaluru, has taken a dramatic turn: he was allegedly murdered by his nephew, who fabricated a story claiming that the former had accidentally fallen while under the influence of alcohol.

The accused, 23-year-old Masrur Ahmed, reportedly killed his uncle, Inayathulla Pasha, following a heated argument at the latter's home on the evening of March 1.

Pasha, who ran a two-wheeler garage near Shoolay Circle, had been living

FIGHT OVER LEASE

for the past 11 years in a house owned by his elder sister, Usna Banu, under a lease arrangement. Divorced 14 years ago and without children, Pasha had reportedly been at odds with Banu over the lease amount of Rs 3 lakh, which she allegedly refused to return while pressuring him to vacate the house. According to police, disputes over the property often led to heated arguments between Pasha, Banu and her son, Masrur Ahmed.

On the evening of March 1, Pasha returned home under the influence of alcohol, and when Ahmed again demanded that he move out, a verbal altercation escalated into violence. Enraged, Ahmed allegedly assaulted him inside the house. Pasha sustained severe injuries and died. Investigators said Ahmed then tried to disguise the murder as an accidental fall, with Banu and Ahmed informing relatives and friends that Pasha had died from a fall.

Suspicion arose the next day as preparations for Pasha's final rites were under way. Some of his friends approached Viveknagar police, raising concerns of foul play in Pasha's death.

At the scene, officers noticed visible injuries on Pasha's body. Residents and relatives reported that while he was found lying dead on the bed, bloodstains near the door suggested something amiss.

Based on a complaint from Pasha's stepson, Syed Mohammed Ali, police registered an unnatural death report and sent the body for postmortem. Ali told police that Pasha, a polio survivor, had his left leg affected since childhood.

Doctors later informed police that the death was due to assault, with multiple broken ribs.

Following this, police asked Pasha's relative, Attaullah Sharif, to lodge a murder complaint that evening. Inspector Veeresh R and his team detained Ahmed for questioning. During interrogation, Ahmed allegedly confessed he lost his temper after Pasha abused his mother. He admitted to assaulting Pasha with his hands, pushing him to the floor and kicking him repeatedly on the chest and abdomen.

In a bid to cover up the crime, Ahmed allegedly placed Pasha on the bed, cleaned the bloodstains from the floor and left the house.

Ahmed was arrested on Tuesday. He is in judicial custody now.

Cab chat costs bizman dear as driver strikes locked house, steals jewellery

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: What began as a routine cab ride ahead of Ramzan shopping turned into a costly mistake for a family when their driver allegedly used a casual conversation to plan a burglary.

A 40-year-old habitual offender, **Abdul Rehman** of KG Halli, was arrested by Hebbal police for breaking into a locked house in Bhuvaneshwarinagar and stealing gold worth Rs 25 lakh. Police recovered 180 grams of gold; some had been pledged at shops in Shivajinagar and KG Halli, while other pieces were sold to acquaintances in Vellore, Tamil Nadu.

The victim, Syed Akram, 67, ran a bangle store on Commercial Street and lived with his son, daughter-in-law and grandson. On Feb 11, ahead of Ramzan, the family locked their house and booked a cab through an aggregator app to head to Yeshwantpur railway station for a shopping trip to Mumbai. The cab ride was assigned to Rehman.

After picking up the family, Abdul Rehman allegedly overheard Akram and his son discussing their detailed travel plans. He learned that the entire family would be away for at least two to three days.

Dropped family, targeted house

Realising the house would remain locked, Abdul Rehman returned to Bhuvaneshwarinagar at midnight. He broke open a window grill, entered the house and stole gold ornaments kept in a bedroom cupboard.

When the family returned on Feb 16, they found their home ransacked. A case was registered at Hebbal police station and a team led by inspector Bhaira tracked down the accused on Feb 22. Abdul Rehman, who has been involved in three theft cases in the past, is in judicial custody now.

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The Board of Directors, management, his family and employees of Godrej Enterprises Group mourn the loss of a Leader whose legacy will continue to guide the Godrej Enterprise Group's future, and the organization remains committed to upholding the values and stewardship he exemplified.

Candidates flag irregularities; govt insists it will ensure a fair system

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Amid mounting allegations of irregularities in recent Karnataka Public Service Commission examination and its selection process, home minister G Parameshwara Wednesday said the govt would examine the issue and take required action. He indicated it would be better if KPSC itself resolves issues quickly.

The row centres on recently announced results for KPSC mains exams for 384 Gazetted

KPSC EXAMS

Probationers Group A and B posts. Candidates have been shortlisted for the next stage.

Questions over transparency arose after some aspirants alleged that some 15 candidates with consecutive serial numbers, who took exams in the same room, had cleared it. In some cases, candidates from the same family were also declared successful.

TOI

BACK ON STREETS: File picture of aspirants protesting in Bengaluru, alleging corruption in KPSC exams and the recruitment process

"There have been complaints against KPSC and KEA (Karnataka Examinations Authority)," Parameshwara said. "All agencies that hold exams face some complaint or other. If the complaints are as serious as alleged, we will step in and ensure a fair system."

Noting that complaints about the KPSC recruitment process have surfaced for several years, he said, "Many steps were taken. The govt and CM have spoken to officials and changed secretaries and the system. Still, if such things happen, someone specific — the secretary or the chairman — must take responsibility. When the govt has decided to recruitment 56,000 people, some processes will go to KEA and some to KPSC. Such confusion should not exist, and recruitments must happen in a just and transparent manner."

Alleging irregularities and massive corruption in the recruitment process, some applicants have demanded results to be withheld and a fair probe. They said that without a proper probe, it would be unjust to honest candidates.

Opposition BJP has also decided to raise the issue during the assembly session.

Retired IPS officer and BJP functionary Bhaskar Rao expressed concern, warning that repeated lapses could erode public trust in the state's key recruitment body. In a social media post, Rao described the reports as a sign of moral decline in governance. He said competitive exams should serve as a transparent process to assess merit and talent, but repeated question paper leaks, evaluation malpractices, and recruitment corruption are undermining confidence among youth. Rao added that these irregularities are not merely cases of job theft, but attacks on the future administrative machinery of the state.

He said the failures extend beyond KPSC, citing systemic negligence, lack of political will and weak enforcement of anti-corruption measures as reasons for ongoing malpractice. "Millions of poor and middle-class candidates, who dedicate years of preparation to these exams, are the primary victims," he said.

Rao urged the govt to undertake urgent structural reforms, including professionalising KPSC along the lines of Union Public Service Commission, digitising examinations to reduce human interference, and ensuring strict punishment for offenders.

This is the second time BJP has raised such allegations. Last year, the party had campaigned in support of KPSC aspirants who alleged question paper leaks and corruption in recruitments.

₹100-cr sought for Kannada Sammelana

A proposal urging the CM to set aside Rs 100 crore in the budget for the 'Vishwa Kannada Sammelana – 2026' was submitted Wednesday. Karnataka State Policy and Planning Commission member S Mohanadass Hegde urged the govt to formally announce the conclave. The event aims to promote Kannada language.

DKS: Won't roll back Hemavathi project

Deputy CM DK Shivakumar insisted that the govt would not go back on the Hemavathi link canal project that provides drinking water to Kunigal. "Nobody can stop the project," Shivakumar said.

Pollution board cracks down on 17 units

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Bengaluru: Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) has issued showcause notices to 17 units, most of them around Malur in Kolar district, and initiated closure proceedings against a vegetable processing unit near KIA.

Officials said the 17 firms were called for personal hearings and are now implementing SOPs mandated by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). "Notices were issued in Jan," officials said. "Most of the violations relate to absence of common effluent treatment plants and the lack of 30-metre-high chimneys. Besides this, one industry in Anekal has been issued a closure order."

The action follows findings by a CPCB-led joint committee that detected lead levels beyond limits prescribed under Food Safety and Standards Regulations. Lead contamination was found in 19 of 72 vegetable samples across Bengaluru, Nelamangala, Kolar and Chikkaballapur.

PM Narendra Swamy, chairman KSPCB, said he flagged lack of infrastructure in Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) estates during a Jan meeting with CM Siddaramaiah and industries minister MB Patil. "They cannot allot land like revenue land," he said. "Basic infrastructure, including effluent and waste treatment facilities, must be provided."

Swamy said the state must direct KIADB to earmark space for common effluent treatment plants and solid waste management while developing industrial zones.

He also highlighted staff shortages. "Recruitment was stopped for 15 years. We have only about 230 staff against a sanctioned strength of 800," he said. In a separate case, KSPCB issued a notice to a vegetable processing unit in Kannamangala, Devanahalli taluk. The unit was operating without mandatory consent for establishment, besides polluting the area around. The company has been given 15 days to respond.

Madigas' stir over internal quota puts govt on the mat

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Bengaluru: Madigas are on the warpath again over internal reservation, posing a fresh political challenge for Congress after it moved to fill 56,432 posts under the old 15% Scheduled Caste quota without internal reservation.

With Left sect SCs calling for a day-and-night protest from March 12, pressure is mounting on the Siddaramaiah govt to clarify its stand. Representatives within the community warn that a failure to address the demand could result in a political fallout, especially ahead of byelections to Bagalkot and Davanagere North assembly seats.

Ambanna Arolikar of Madiga Dandora Samiti said the organisation has decided to oppose Congress in the bypolls. "Congress appears to be dilly-dallying with our right to internal reservation," he said. "We have waited for 35 years for successive govts to give us what is our right. Our community is looking to teach the govt a lesson."

SC representatives say that while the Madiga community may not be a decisive electoral force in every constituency, the intention is to send a strong message ahead of the more significant zilla and taluk panchayat elections. "Madigas and Left sect communities have at least 5,000 to 10,000 votes in every assembly constituency," Arolikar said.

Karnataka has an estimated 34 lakh Madigas and members of the Left sects, of whom about 20 lakh are part of the voting population.

Sensing an opportunity, BJP has stepped up its attack on Congress. BJP MLC and opposition chief whip in the legislative council N Ravi Kumar alleged that the govt had gone back on its word. "The decision to backtrack on internal reservation while calling for application for govt jobs is nothing but cheating SC communities," he said. "Along with general quota aspirants' unrest over delay in filling vacancies, we are ready to create awareness against this inactive govt."

Will be resolved: Congress

However, Congress functionaries were confident the issue would be resolved at Thursday's cabinet meeting.

"Our govt is committed to providing internal reservation. There is nothing wrong in some sections lobbying for it," said Ramesh Babu, Congress spokesperson and MLC. "There has been some confusion on the issue but efforts are being made to reverse the negative impact."

Vijayanand Kashappanavar, Hungund MLA, brushed off the threat saying he did not expect major electoral repercussions in Bagalkot but acknowledged reservation demands require careful handling.

"Even we, Panchamasali Lingayats, have been fighting for 2A reservation but we must wait. Reservation in general is not an overnight process and people have to wait for it," he said.

LEFT & RIGHT AMONG DALITS

In Karnataka, Scheduled Castes are divided sociologically and politically into 'Left' and 'Right' sects. Left Dalits largely comprises the Madiga community and its sub-sects, who have sought equitable reservation within the SC quota, arguing that the Right sect has cornered a larger share of benefits. In recent years, they have often extended support to BJP in pursuit of this demand but in the previous polls some went with Congress.

Right Dalits largely comprise the Holaya community and are perceived as aligned with Congress. The ideological divide traces back to leaders such as BR Ambedkar, who advocated the annihilation of caste and led the Dalit Buddhist movement in 1956. He is revered by the Right. The Left Dalits revere Babu Jagjivan Ram, who worked for Dalit upliftment within the Hindu fold and opposed conversion.

DIVIDED THEY STAND

"Six cases are pending in courts against internal reservation and increased reservation for Scheduled Castes. While we prepared a matrix based on the enhanced 17% quota, the process to implement it for 15% is quite difficult

Priyank Kharge | RDPR & IT-BT MINISTER

"Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge had asked us to amicably settle internal reservation among all communities. It will be discussed at Thursday's cabinet meeting. No court has barred implementing an internal matrix for 15% quota on a proportionate basis

KH Muniyappa & RB Thimmapur | MINISTERS

Debt load set to increase as revenue strain dogs Karnataka's finances

BV Shivashankar & Chethan Kumar | TNN

Bengaluru: Days away from the start of a new fiscal, Karnataka's finances appear poised on a familiar fault line — sluggish revenue growth and rising dependence on borrowing. While the state's gross state domestic product (GSDP) is projected to expand, budget numbers indicate loans will climb in 2026-27, with a sizeable portion likely to fund revenue expenditure rather than asset creation.

The govt's budget estimates show Karnataka is expected to close 2025-26 with borrowings of more than Rs 1.1 lakh crore — up from around Rs 1 lakh crore in 2024-25. The steady rise is projected to push total liabilities beyond Rs 7.6 lakh crore. This would still be under 25% of projected GSDP of about Rs 30.7 lakh crore and within limits prescribed by Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) norms.

If the state's population is pegged at 7 crore, per capita debt works out to nearly Rs 1.1 lakh. This is close to half the per capita income cited in the previous state Economic Survey. In its mid-term fiscal review tabled in Dec 2025, the state had estimated total liabilities at 24.9% of GSDP.

But Reserve Bank of India in its Study of Budgets of 2025-26 released in Jan 2026, pegged Karnataka's total liabilities at Rs 8.1 lakh crore by March 31. Karnataka has disputed that figure.

A state finance department statement, read: "The figure of Rs 8.1 lakh crore reported externally overstates the state's liabilities. The correct figure of state total liability is likely to be Rs 7.6 lakh crore at the end of 2025-26."

Revenue mobilisation remains key. Against a target of Rs 2 lakh crore from the state's own taxes in 2025-26, the govt collected about Rs 1.5 lakh crore till the end of Jan. Except for excise department, most major revenue heads are expected to miss targets. Borrowing is set to bridge the shortfall.

Chief minister Siddaramaiah is expected to lean on projected GSDP growth to justify higher borrowing in the next fiscal. With the state economy estimated to expand to at least Rs 32 lakh crore, Karnataka can raise more debt in absolute terms while remaining within the 25% liability cap under FRBM.

"We will borrow to fill revenue gaps and ensure growth," said Basavaraj Rayareddi, economic adviser to the CM. "But our borrowings will be well within allowed limits as Karnataka always stands for fiscal discipline and prudence unlike BJP at the Centre."

But economists say the focus should be on how borrowed funds are spent. "Borrowing is justified only when it is used for productive spending. Otherwise, it amounts to valuation," said BDA Satya Babu Bose, director, Centre for Rural Development and Study.

With committed expenditure on salaries, pensions and interest payments rising steadily, the room for capital investment could shrink further. For a state already facing revenue stress, the coming fiscal may see debt deepen not just in size, but in structural dependence on borrowing.

GROWING BURDEN

	Borrowings	Interest
2022-23	₹44,549cr	₹28,427cr
2023-24	₹90,280cr	₹30,826cr
2024-25	₹1,05,246cr	₹36,634cr
2025-26	₹1,16,000cr	₹45,600cr

Protests over Khamenei killing barred, says HM

The govt has filed cases against those who violated rules by taking out processions to condemn the killing of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and has said no such rallies or protests will be allowed in Bengaluru without prior permission. Home minister G Parameshwara said such protests in Bengaluru will be permitted only at Freedom Park and only after police review. Reiterating the govt's stand specific to Bengaluru, Parameshwara said, "One section of the minority community considers Khamenei their spiritual leader. When he died, they naturally expressed grief. However, protests must be carried out within the legal framework of our nation. They did not seek permission for the procession." He added, "Despite this, a procession was taken out, and the police have initiated action." TNN

Now, ₹65-lakh machine will suck dry waste from roadside

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Bengaluru: Heaps of dry leaves, bags of litter strewn on the roadside and waste thrown in vacant sites will now be cleared with ease by the Bengaluru North city corporation using its newly-procured litter-picking machine.

The truck-mounted machine sucks waste into its vacuum chamber. With a capacity of 5,000 litres, it can be used in places where workers struggle to reach.

BNCC commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar said such a machine has already been used by Tumakuru city municipal corporation. "We procured a similar one and spent some time customising it according to our needs by widening the hose. We will use this on a pilot basis," he said. The corporation purchased the machine at Rs 65 lakh.

Though there are no plans to buy another such machine, BNCC plans to procure smaller versions of the litter picker. Greater Bengaluru Authority chief commissioner Maheshwar Rao reportedly asked for a proposal for potentially scaling up the facility across the city.

ON CLEAN MISSION

BNCC deputy general manager Rashmi N said the machine can also be used to clear waste from drains.

However, some citizens have expressed scepticism about whether such machines work in Indian conditions.

"The machine works with leaves, paper and other dry waste, but it might suffer damage if it encounters coconut shells, beer bottles and binding wires – all of which are widespread on the city's roads," Mahesh Readdy, an activist working with solid waste management solutions, said.

He added similar pilot projects were carried out in Mumbai and Telangana, but the machines are now in need of repair.

Right to be informed of arrest reason includes foreigners: HC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The constitutional protection under Article 22 extends to all persons within the territory of India, including foreign nationals, as it is not citizen-centric but person-centric, the high court said.

"Article 22(1) of the Constitution of India mandates that every person must be informed of the grounds of arrest. The requirement of informing the grounds of arrest is a mandatory constitutional safeguard and not a procedural formality," Justice M Nagaprasanna observed while granting relief to two Nigerian nationals.

The law does not prescribe a rigid form of communicating the grounds of arrest. Substantial compliance is sufficient, provided the arrested person is made aware of the basis of the arrest. The judicial review in such cases is limited to whether the grounds of arrest were communicated or not, and not the adequacy or correctness of the grounds of arrest. Finding violations of the mandate of the apex court vis-à-vis grounds of arrest, the petitioners are entitled to be set at liberty, the judge said.

The moment the petitioners are set at liberty, they must be handed over to the FRRO for action in terms of the SOP for withdrawal of the prosecution and consequent deportation of these petitioners, as they are admittedly overstaying in India for more than 10 years without any valid documents, the judge added.

Petitioners Emeka James Iwoba and Uderike Fidelis sought a direction to declare their arrest under the provisions of NDPS Act as illegal, because they were not furnished with the grounds of arrest before their arrest and were not produced before the magistrate within 24 hours of arrest for remand.

H Shanthi Bhushan, deputy solicitor general of India, appearing for the FRRO, submitted that the petitioners came to India in 2015 on a business visa, and the same expired in 2018. Justice Nagaprasanna noted that the petitioners are entitled to be set at liberty on the defective grounds of arrest served upon them, as there is no substantial compliance with the law laid down by the Supreme Court.

A direction was also issued to the govt to constitute a state-level screening committee and a district-level one vis-à-vis overstaying foreign nationals in the state, as found in the SOP.

A report on the constitution of the committees must be submitted to the court within four months.

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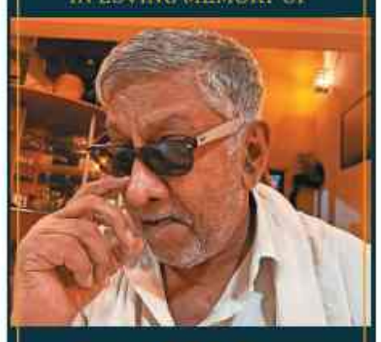

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- Son Arjun and Family

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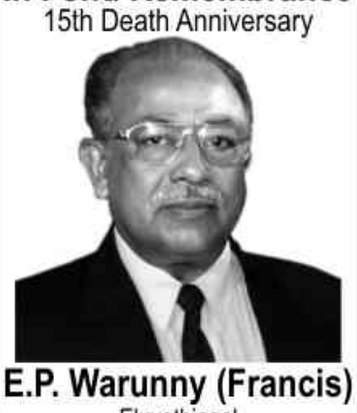

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Impact of curbs: Gulf flyers forced to pay steep fares to return home

Nithya.Mandyam@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: As flight operations slowly resume between the Gulf region and Bengaluru, airlines are clearing the backlog of stranded passengers in a chronological sequence, based on the original date of booking.

Passengers said airlines are prioritising those whose flights were cancelled earlier, with travellers from Feb 25 departures being accommodated first, followed by those scheduled on Feb 27 and subsequent dates. While this system allows airlines to clear the backlog in an orderly manner, it also means that many passengers are reaching Bengaluru several days after their originally scheduled arrival, forcing them to miss important work commitments, family events and travel plans.

Airport sources said airlines are trying to restore operations gradually on West Asia routes affected by the recent airspace restrictions, but limited flights and heavy passenger loads are resulting in a long queue of travellers waiting to return.

Jayaprakash TP, a Bengaluru resident who was originally scheduled to land in the city on Feb 26, said he has now been rebooked on a flight departing Dubai on March 6.

"My original flight was cancelled, and since then we waited for updates. The airline told us they are clearing passengers based on the original booking dates. Emirates has now issued me a ticket for March 6 without asking for extra charges, but there is still uncertainty until the flight actually takes off," Jayaprakash said.

Yelahanka resident Pradeep Kumar said he was supposed to return to Bengaluru on Feb 27 after a short business trip to Dubai but was repeatedly rebooked. "Every few days we get an update saying the next available flight is later because passengers from earlier cancelled flights are being accommodated first. While it is understandable, the uncertainty is very stressful because we do not know exactly when we will reach home," he said.

Reuters

TRYING TIMES: Limited flights and heavy passenger loads at Dubai and other airports in West Asia are resulting in long queues of travellers waiting to return home

TRAVELLERS OF EARLIER CANCELLATIONS GET PRIORITY

As flight operations slowly resume between the Gulf region and Bengaluru, airlines are clearing the backlog of stranded passengers in a chronological sequence, based on the original date of booking.

Passengers said airlines are prioritising those whose flights were cancelled earlier, with travellers from Feb 25 departures being accommodated first, followed by those scheduled on Feb 27 and subsequent dates. While this system allows airlines to clear the backlog in an orderly manner, it also means that many passengers are reaching Bengaluru several days after their originally scheduled arrival, forcing them to miss important work commitments, family events and travel plans.

Airport sources said airlines are trying to restore operations gradually on West Asia routes affected by the recent airspace restrictions, but limited flights and heavy passenger loads are resulting in a long queue of travellers waiting to return.

Jayaprakash TP, a Bengaluru resident who was originally scheduled to land in the city on Feb 26, said he has now been rebooked on a flight departing Dubai on March 6.

"My original flight was cancelled, and since then we waited for updates. The airline told us they are clearing passengers based on the original booking dates. Emirates has now issued me a ticket for March 6 without asking for extra charges, but there is still uncertainty until the flight actually takes off," Jayaprakash said.

Yelahanka resident Pradeep Kumar said he was supposed to return to Bengaluru on Feb 27 after a short business trip to Dubai but was repeatedly rebooked. "Every few days we get an update saying the next available flight is later because passengers from earlier cancelled flights are being accommodated first. While it is understandable, the uncertainty is very stressful because we do not know exactly when we will reach home," he said. TNN

HC says no to home food for Darshan, Pavithra in prison

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

While a trial court had allowed home food for Darshan (in pic) and other undertrials following an oral plea, HC said medical advice is required for such a consideration

Bengaluru: The high court Wednesday quashed trial court orders that allowed home-cooked food for actor Darshan Thoogudeepa, his associate Pavithra Gowda and others who have been arrested in connection with the Renukaswamy murder case.

The high court said medical advice is a prerequisite for such a consideration for undertrial prisoners.

"The protection of human dignity does not cease at the gates of the prison. Prisoners, though deprived of liberty, are entitled to basic necessities, a caveat in accordance with the law. Home-cooked food for undertrial prisoners is not prohibited, but it can be granted only in accordance with prison rules and procedures," Justice M Nagaprasanna said.

"Medical advice must precede the grant of home-cooked food. Permission cannot be granted merely on request or as a matter of indulgence. The trial court's order is legally unsustainable as it directed the grant of home-cooked food without a prior medical examination or recommendation. Granting such concessions indiscriminately would create chaos in prison management, as other inmates would also be entitled to similar treatment," the judge said.

"It is a matter of concern regarding the adequacy and quality of prison food, noting that Rs 85 per day (now revised to Rs 125) for four meals raises legitimate questions about nutritional sufficiency. To safeguard prisoners' rights and to ensure transparency, I deem it appropriate to direct the digital publication of the prison menu at conspicuous places, and the establishment of a complaint mechanism enabling prisoners to report deficiencies in food quality... if one is not in place already," Justice Nagaprasanna added.

The medical officer or a designated dietitian shall conduct periodic inspection of the food prepared for the inmates and record certification with regard to its quality, intermittently, the court said.

The state govt shall issue a circular towards the procedure for the purpose of compliance with the directions, the judge observed.

The 57th city civil and sessions court had directed the jail authorities to provide home food to accused Pavithra, R Nagaraja, and M Lakshman and other accused including Darshan, following an oral submission.

Property buyer entitled to seek transfer of khata, rules court

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

ASSETS LAW

Bengaluru: A person who purchased a property under the asset reconstruction law is entitled to seek transfer of its khata in his favour, the high court has ruled.

The sale under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act and issuance of a certificate to this effect carry a presumption of regularity, Justice Suraj Govindaraj noted in his recent order while allowing the petition filed by Hassan resident Nagabhushana.

Nagabhushana purchased a flat situated at P&T Colony, Sanjaynagar, Bengaluru, from SV Naresh, the successful bidder in an auction conducted by SBI. The flat's previous owner, Revathi, had pledged the property with the bank, and as she had failed to repay the loan, it had been auctioned under SARFAESI proceedings.

In the meantime, BBMP (now Greater Bengaluru Authority) cancelled its khata and rejected the khata transfer application submitted by Nagabhushana, saying the building was an unauthorised construction.

Bescom authorities also disconnected power supply to the flat in 2024. Nagabhushana challenged both actions.

Rameshchandra, counsel for the petitioner, submitted that the khata in question was transferred to Revathi in 2003 and objections to the same were submitted only in 2011 and, ultimately, in 2023. The khata was cancelled in 2023, all barred by limitation, as BBMP laws stipulated that no review could be entertained after three years.

He added there was no allegation of fraud or suppression of facts against the previous owner. He claimed there was no justification for Bescom to cut off power supply following cancellation of khata.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj noted that the alleged illegality or unauthorised nature of the construction could not justify the cancellation of khata independent of, or beyond, the statutory limitation prescribed under the municipal laws.

The judge added the consequential disconnection of power supply was not sustainable in law. He directed immediate restoration of power supply, apart from considering the application for transfer of khata in Nagabhushana's name.

WILDFIRE BREAKS OUT AT NANDI HILLS

TOI

SUMMER'S BURNING ISSUE: A wildfire, which broke out at Nandi Hills on the outskirts of Bengaluru late Tuesday evening, was brought under control by the wee hours of Wednesday. Forest officials said the fire did not cause much damage to flora and fauna at the hillock. Authorities have initiated an inquiry to ascertain whether it was an accidental wildfire, possibly triggered by dry conditions, or a deliberate act of mischief

BJP worker among three stabbed on Udupi beach

Udupi: A clash near a guest house on Malpe Beach Tuesday night left three youths, including local BJP worker Manjunath Salian alias Manju Kola, with stab injuries, police said.

Udupi SP Hariram Shankar said the incident occurred around 9.30pm when the accused — Amruth Bhandary, Prajnesh, Puneeth Poojary and Abhijith — allegedly arrived with a minor in a white SUV. The group is said to have come armed with a knife near Blue Waves Guest House.

They allegedly picked up a quarrel with the complainant, Santosh A Amin, and his friends — Manju, Dhanush, Lathish and Varun — who were sitting on the seashore discussing an issue related to Amruth Bhandary's sister.

When Manju questioned them, the accused allegedly verbally abused him and physically assaulted the group. Police said Prajnesh, with the intention to kill, took out a knife from his trouser pocket and stabbed Manju on the left side of his abdomen. Varun and Lathish were also stabbed and injured. TNN

Tulu 2nd official lingo? Report sent to govt

Mangaluru: The committee appointed by the govt to study the criteria followed by Andhra Pradesh while declaring an additional official language has submitted its report, linked to the proposal to make Tulu Karnataka's second official language.

The govt had constituted a six-member study committee under the chairpersonship of KM Gayathri, then director of department of Kannada and Culture, in the presence of Taranath Gatti Kapikad, president of Karnataka Tulu Sahitya Academy.

The committee visited the Andhra Pradesh secretariat and various departments and offices on Jan 19 and 20. It studied the norms, procedures and criteria adopted while declaring Urdu as the second official language in Andhra Pradesh and prepared a detailed report. TNN

VTU to seek govt nod to expand abroad, recognise foreign colleges

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OVERSEAS AMBITIONS

Bengaluru: Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) will write to the state govt to permit it to expand its footprint to other countries. Once approved, engineering colleges under its affiliation can also be established abroad.

The move follows requests from colleges in countries such as Saudi Arabia, Dubai and South Africa, which submitted requests seeking recognition from VTU, said vice-chancellor S Vidyashankar. "However, this requires permission from the department of higher education as the Act under which VTU is established permits it to grant recognition to colleges only within the state."

VTU has 220 engineering colleges under its ambit, all within Karnataka, with approximately 300,000 students. It is one of the universities with the highest number of engineering colleges in the country.

Established in 1998, the university has 46 autonomous engineering colleges. It set up constituent colleges in Gokak, Chintamani and Davanagere.

VTU also has regional offices and postgraduate centres in Muddenahalli, Belagavi, Kalaburagi, Mysuru and Talakal. The university offers seven BE courses, BTech, as well as MBA and MTech programmes.

"The university has gained international recognition. It delivered exam results within just one hour of completion. It has well-equipped hostels and libraries. The curriculum is updated regularly to meet contemporary needs..." he said.

Once govt gives approval, the university will have to write to All India Council of Technical Education, statutory body for technical education. "If permission is granted, the university will gain greater popularity at the international level," he said.

While many private universities have campuses outside Karnataka, it is rare of public varsities to grant recognition to institutions outside the state.

Businessman trusts trio to secure MBBS seat in KIMS for daughter, loses ₹25L

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The crooks claimed a donation had to be paid for a medical seat and when the man paid Rs 10 lakh, they produced fake receipts. Believing them, he paid another Rs 15 lakh

Bengaluru: A 45-year-old businessman was allegedly cheated of Rs 25 lakh by three persons who promised to secure an MBBS seat for his daughter in Kempegowda Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS). However, the accused took money from him last year but neither secured the seat nor returned the amount.

According to a complaint filed by Lal Babu at Banashankari police station on Feb 28, the accused include Dr Sharath KP, who allegedly claimed to be president of KIMS, along with Shamsher Baig, Syed Tabrez and others.

Babu's daughter, after completing her PU, appeared for a national-level test with aspirations of pursuing an MBBS degree.

In June 2025, Babu came into contact with Shamsher Baig through a mutual acquaintance, Syed Tabrez.

The two reportedly met at Hazrat Yakeen Shah Wali Dargah in Sampangiramanagar. During the meeting, Shamsher Baig introduced Babu over the phone to Dr Sharath KP, who assured him that he could secure a medical seat for his daughter.

Following the phone conversation, Babu and his son visited Sharath on June 24 at KIMS, located in 2nd Phase, Banashankari.

Sharath met them in a conference hall inside the campus, introduced himself as the "president," and allegedly convinced Babu of his credentials by showing an identity card. He then reportedly collected the girl's original SSLC and PUC marks cards, her NLT examination certificate, and her PAN card.

The following day, Babu was asked to meet the accused at a hotel near Basaveshwara Circle, where they told him that a donation of Rs 25 lakh was required to secure the seat. Trusting their assurances, Babu began making payments in instalments. He initially transferred Rs 50,000 on the same day through a digital payment application, followed by several bank transfers amounting to Rs 10 lakh between June 26 and July 4 last year to Sharath.

The complainant alleged that after receiving these payments, the accused produced fake receipts, purportedly issued by a department of the state govt, and presented them as genuine to persuade him to pay the remaining amount. Subsequently, the balance of Rs 15 lakh was allegedly handed over in cash to Sharath, Shamsher Baig, and Syed Tabrez on July 4, Sept 27, and Dec 25.

Despite collecting Rs 25 lakh, the accused neither secured the promised medical seat nor returned the money. Babu later discovered that Sharath was not the president of KIMS as claimed. Alleging that the trio had intended to cheat him from the outset by making false promises, Babu approached police.

A case has been registered under Sections 318 (cheating), 319 (cheating by personation), 336 (forgery) and 340 (forged document or electronic record and using it as genuine) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. The accused are absconding.

TIMES NATION

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2026

UPCOMING POLLS ARE NOT A MERE ELECTION, BUT AN 'OCEANIC EMOTION' FOR ME, SAYS ACTOR VIJAY

CONG EXTENDS SUPPORT TO SHARAD PAWAR AS MVA CANDIDATE FOR RS ELECTIONS FROM MAHARASHTRA

Jaishankar discusses Iran with EU's Kallas

New Delhi: External affairs minister **S Jaishankar** held a telephonic conversation with vice-president of the European Commission, Kaja Kallas, and discussed the ongoing conflict in Iran and the Gulf region.

In a post shared on X, Jaishankar wrote, "Had a telecon with EU HRVP @kajakallas. Our discussions focused on the ongoing conflict in Iran and the Gulf."

Earlier on March 1, Jaishankar spoke with his counterparts from several Gulf countries amid rising tensions in West Asia, stressing the need for de-escalation through dialogue and diplomacy. He said India is concerned about the escalating situation and highlighted the country's strong interest in regional peace and the safety of the Indian community living in the region. ANI

MEA sets up control room to assist Indians in war zone

Indian Students In Tehran Sent To Safer Locations

New Delhi: Ministry of external affairs (MEA) has set up a control room to assist those affected by the escalating crisis in West Asia.

The MEA has said almost one crore Indian citizens live in West Asia and their safety and well-being is of "utmost priority" for New Delhi.

As the Iran-US conflict widened, the Indian embassy in Iran moved hundreds of Indian students from the Iranian capital of Tehran to safer locations. "A Control Room has been set up in the Ministry of External Affairs in view of the current situation in West Asia and the Gulf region," the MEA said on Wednesday.

"The Control Room can be contacted from 9 am to 9 pm at: 1800118797 (Toll Free) +91 11 2301 2113, +91 11 2301 4104, +91 11 2301 7905," it added.

The US launched military strikes on Iran on February 28, killing Iranian Supreme leader Ali Khamenei. Following the military offensive, Iran has carried out a wave of attacks mainly targeting Israel and American military bases in several Gulf countries, including the UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

Ministry of external affairs on Tuesday noted almost one crore Indian citizens live and work in the Gulf region, and their "safety and well-being is of utmost priority."

"We cannot be impervious to any development that negatively affects them," it said. PTI

PTI

WARM HOMECOMING: A passenger is welcomed with garlands by family members upon her arrival on a flight from Saudi Arabia in Ahmedabad on Wednesday, amid the ongoing Iran-Israel conflict

BJP: Oppn spreading fuel shortage lies

The BJP on Wednesday alleged that some sections in the oppn are running a "misinformation campaign" to create panic through claims of fuel shortages and price spikes amid a "war-like situation" in West Asia, and asked people not to be swayed by it. The party asserted that the govt has ensured that people in India are protected from supply shocks and runaway fuel inflation, despite "global instability". PTI

Umrah pilgrimage from Kerala to Mecca severely disrupted

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Kozhikode: The Umrah pilgrimage from Kerala to Mecca has been severely disrupted following large-scale flight cancellations due to the escalating conflict in the Middle East, leaving hundreds of pilgrims in a limbo.

Scores of pilgrims who had long planned their spiritual journey saw their departures cancelled, while uncertainty looms over those scheduled to travel in the coming weeks. At the same time, several pilgrims who already reached Saudi Arabia and completed the pilgrimage are reportedly stranded due to return flight disruptions.

"The flight cancellations have directly impacted Umrah bookings. Nearly 60% of tickets are usually booked almost a year in advance and payments for hotel accommodation were already made," said an official of a leading travel agency.

Industry sources said under normal circumstances, around 150 Umrah pilgrims travel daily from Calicut International Airport. With the mass cancellation of flights, passenger movement from here came to a near standstill.

Representative photo

According to travel agents, postponing Umrah trips could prove difficult with Haj season approaching, as Umrah is not conducted during the period

"There is also a limited time window for Umrah. The last date of arrival for this season is April 2 and pilgrims must return by April 18," said Salil, an official with Akbar Travels.

Pilgrims booked for later departures this month are also anxious about uncertainty over outbound and return flights, even if their current tickets are not formally cancelled. Travel agents said postponing Umrah trips could prove difficult with Haj season approaching, as Umrah is not conducted during the period.

Sources in the travel industry warned that the developments could have a significant financial impact on Umrah operators, given the scale of advance bookings and the likelihood of increased operational costs if the disruptions persist.

Mehbooba and Omar protest against US move

Srinagar: Former Jammu and Kashmir CM Mehbooba Mufti Wednesday burned effigies of US President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Srinagar to protest the US-Israeli military strikes on Iran. While CM Omar Abdullah offered prayers for Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei who was killed in the strikes. Omar called people in Kashmir to maintain peace.

Mehbooba also condemned the administration for registering an FIR against National Conference (NC) MP Aga Ruhullah Mehdi. She said the FIR against Mehdi and former Srinagar Mayor Junaid Azim Matoo is egregiously unwarranted and unjust. TNN

Airlines continue repatriation services to Dubai, Abu Dhabi

▶Continued from P 1

Other Indian airlines, including Akasa Air, SpiceJet and IndiGo, are continuing to operate select services to destinations across West Asia. Airports in Dubai and Abu Dhabi are currently managing only limited repatriation flights. Meanwhile, passenger services at Bahrain, Doha and Kuwait airports remain suspended.

Emirates and Air Arabia confirmed on Wednesday that all regularly scheduled flights to and from Dubai will stay suspended until midnight Saturday. Emirates posted on X that passengers affected by recent cancellations could send them a direct message on X, phone the airline only if they are in need of urgent assistance and when they do so, expect a wait on hold for up to 2-3 hours. Passengers can request a refund for their booking if it is on or before March 12 without contacting the airline, it said.

On Feb 28, day one of the disruption, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) had issued an advisory to all Indian carriers asking them to avoid airspace in high-risk zones including Tehran, Tel Aviv, Beirut, Jeddah, Bahrain, Muscat, Baghdad, Amman, Kuwait and Doha.

Help sought to evacuate ailing child

A family in Jaipur has appealed to the Govt of India to evacuate their six-year-old granddaughter from Iran's Qom district, citing her fragile health and the escalating US-Israel strikes. Residents of Taqvi Manzil have been anxiously tracking news updates as their daughter Hina Taqvi, son-in-law Hasan Abbas, and granddaughter Maryam remain in Qom, reportedly witnessing heavy missile attacks. The family says they have been unable to contact them since the afternoon of Feb 28. The last message they received from Hina read: "Pray for us." Maryam suffers from a serious neurological condition. TNN

War fuels worry for Indian sailors held in Iran

Noida: For a family in Ghaziabad, the conflict that erupted in Iran on Feb 28 has turned an already anxious wait into a frightening silence. Mukesh Mehta says he has not heard from his son Ketan — a sailor detained in Iran since Dec — after regular calls abruptly stopped days before the strikes.

"Ketan was lodged in Bandar Abbas jail, from where he would call us every two or three days. But since Feb 26, there has been no call at all," Mukesh told **TOI**. Ketan was among 18 crew members detained after oil tanker MT Valiant Roar was intercepted in international waters near port of Dibba in UAE and taken to Iran on Dec 8 reports **Ashni Dhaor**.

Hotting up: India keeps fingers crossed on 40% tea shipments

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Guwahati: Indian tea exporters are holding their nerve as geopolitical tensions escalate across West Asia, mindful that nearly 40% of India's tea shipments head to Iran, Iraq, the UAE and Saudi Arabia.

With the production season of 2026, particularly Assam and West Bengal, yet to pick up due to low rainfall, industry voices say it is too early to predict the fallout.

The production cycle in Assam and West Bengal begin around the same time, April, with July to October marking the peak season when nearly 60% of the annual crop is harvested.

"It's too early to predict the impact of the war. It's not the time to hit the panic button yet," Bidyananda Barkakoty, adviser, North Eastern Tea Association (NETA) told TOI. Drawing a parallel, Barkakoty said despite the ongoing Russia Ukraine war, shipments to Moscow have not been affected. "If exports to Iran stops, the rest of West Asia is still there. Iraq is strong, the UAE is rising," he added.

Barkakoty said that a few years ago, Iran accounted for 20% of India's tea shipments. "But the Tea Board data of 2024 shows a decline as exports to Iran fell to 3.6%." The 2025 figures yet to be released."

BREWING RESILIENCE

He said that probably due to payments linked to US sanctions, Tehran may now be sourcing Indian tea through the UAE, whose import share has risen. "Iranian buyers love Indian tea, especially the orthodox variety, but the trade dynamics are shifting," Barkakoty said.

Iraq has emerged as a big market, one that India has captured from Sri Lanka. Traditionally, Sri Lankan orthodox tea dominated Iraqi shelves, but Indian producers — especially Assam's orthodox segment — have steadily displaced Colombo's share.

"Traditionally dominated by Sri Lankan orthodox tea, the Iraqi market has now been captured by Indian producers," Barkakoty said. Beyond West Asia, Russia remains a major importer of Indian tea.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Shantha Kumar P, S/o Pilladoddappa born on 20/10/1970 residing at D/no.60, 7th Cross, Nandinagar, Chikkabanavara post, Bengaluru-560090, have changed my name to Shanthakumar P vide affidavit dated 28/02/2026 at Bengaluru City.

I, Girijamma R, D/o Rangappa born on 15/05/1976 residing at D/no.164, 1st Main, Dwarakanagar, Chikkabanavara post, Bengaluru- 560090, have changed my name to Girija Krishna vide affidavit dated 28/02/2026 at Bengaluru City.

I, Vijayalakshmi R/o No 09 Anugraha Nilaya, Ground Floor, Kuvempu Road, Indranagar, Doddabidarakallu, Bengaluru-560073 have changed my name from Vijayalakshmi N to Vijayalakshmi for all future purposes

I D Khattri R/o 6, Ashirwad Colony, 1st Main 4th Cross, Horamavu Road, Banaswadi, Bengaluru have changed my name to Devashish Khattri

I Pratishtha Panwar r/o MC-502, Shapoorji Pallonji Parkwest, Binnypete, Bengaluru-560023, Karnataka, have changed my name from Pratishtha to Pratishtha Panwar.

LOST & FOUND

NOTICE is hereby given to the general public that my client Mr. M N Manjunath has lost the Org Sale deed Doc No.1683/1983-84 dated 9.9.1983 in the name of Saraswathamma of PID No. 11-17-15, Khata No. 302/280/240 measuring 60x52 =3120sq ft, situated at Kalyagate, Magadi Town, Ramanagara, Bangalore South. If any one finds Contact-Law Globe 9964255277

CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

HAPPY Birthday to our dear friend NAYANA GOWDA,may your retirement plans come true. From your av and ai

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CIN : U24232RJ2011SGC035067, E-mail : edpssrmsc@rajasthan.gov.in

Ref No. : F.02 (437)/RMSCL/Procurement/Drug/NIB-16/2025-26/3663 Dated :- 24/02/2026

Notice Inviting E-Bids

E-bids for rate contract cum empanelment for supply of following items are invited from eligible bidders:-

S. No.	Item Name/Description	Ref. No.	UBN	Estimated Value in Rs.	Time & Last date for bid submission
1.	Drug & Medicines	F.02 (437)/RMSCL/Procurement/Drug/NIB-16/2025/3663 Dated :- 24/02/2026	MSC2526GLRC00089	19.29 Crore	11.03.2026 Up to 6.00 PM

Other particulars of the bids may be visited on the procurement portal http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in and may be downloaded from there.

Executive Director (Procurement)
RMSCL

Raj.Samwad/C/25/21699

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तिरुवनंतपुरम / THIRUVANANTHAPURAM – 22 / (फोन नं. / Ph. No. 0471 – 2564568 / 4545)

दिनांक/Dated : 04-03-2026

ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करते हुए संक्षिप्त सूचना / BRIEF NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से निम्नलिखित कार्यों के लिए ई-टेंडरिंग द्वारा ऑनलाइन मद-दर निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। On behalf of the President of India, online item-rate tenders are invited through E-tendering for the following works.

1. वट्टीयूरकावु में 500 घन मी. क्षमता की वृत्ताकार उन्नयित जल टंकी का निर्माण (सिविल तथा पीएच कार्य) / Construction of 500 Cum capacity circular elevated water tank at Vattiyoorkavu (Civil & PH works) / **VSSC/CMG/C01/30/2025-26 Dt. 04.03.2026 (पी.ए.सी./P.A.C: ₹409.07 लाख/Lakh)**
2. वीआरसी मुख्य भवन फेस –2, वीएसएससी के संवर्धन हेतु 1500 कि. ग्रा. माल उत्थापक की अभिकल्पना, संविरचन, आपूर्ति उन्निर्माण, परीक्षण और कमीशनिंग / Design, Fabrication, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 1500 kg Goods Elevator for augmentation of VRC Main Building Phase-2, **VSSC. / VSSC/CMG/M01/03/2025-2026 Dated 04.03.2026 (पी.ए.सी./P.A.C: ₹30.99 लाख/Lakh)**

डाउनलोड करने की अवधि / Period for downloading : दिनांक 05.03.2026, 10.00 बजे/hrs. से/to दिनांक 18.03.2026, 23.00 बजे/hrs.

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Sd/- प्रधान, सीएमजी, वीएसएससी / Head, CMG, VSSC

Government of Karnataka
DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND SPORTS
State Youth Centre, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru - 560 001
Tel: (080) 22215601, 22211246, Fax: 080 22215602

No:DYES/AP/ES/173/2025-26 Date:03.03.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement Portal Only)

Subject: The Assistant Executive Engineer, Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports, State Youth Centre, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru-560001, KARNATAKA INDIA invites Tender to take up the various works at Raichur, Chitradurga, Davanagere and Shivamogga Districts, Karnataka.

Sl. No.	Particulars	Amount put to Tender	EMD	Last Date and Time for Submission of Bid	Last Date and Time for Opening of Technical Bid
1	Installation of Synthetic Hockey Turf at District Stadium, Raichur District	Rs.28.16 Lakhs	Rs.56,320	09-03-2026 Time 16:00 Hrs	10-03-2026 Time 16:30 Hrs
2	Construction of Taluk Stadium at Challakere Taluk, Chitradurga District	Rs.394.51 Lakhs	Rs.5,91,767	20-03-2026 Time 16:30 Hrs	23-03-2026 Time 11:30 Hrs
3	Construction of Indoor Stadium at Jagalur Taluk, Davanagere District	Rs.158.84 Lakhs	Rs.2,38,267	17-03-2026 Time 16:00 Hrs	18-03-2026 Time 16:30 Hrs
4	Development of Walkers Path way at Shivamogga District Stadium	Rs.38.53 Lakhs	Rs.77,070	18-03-2026 Time 17:00 Hrs	20-03-2026 Time 11:30 Hrs

The Tender shall be submitted through e-Procurement Portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in). Vendors need to register in the e-Procurement Portal to submit their bids online. The tender document can be viewed free of cost from the e-Procurement Portal. Additional information may be obtained during office hours at the above mentioned Address.

Sd/-
Assistant Executive Engineer
Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports
(Tender Inviting Authority)

DIPR/CP/5985/CCL/2025-26

Impasse ends, Cong settles for 28+1, signs poll pact with DMK

Had Demanded 41, Settled After Sonia Intervened: Sources

M.Yazhiniyan
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PTI

DMK president and chief minister M K Stalin and TNCC president K Selvaperunthagai formalised the seat-sharing deal at DMK headquarters

Chennai: The DMK-Congress alliance ended weeks of uncertainty on Wednesday, announcing a seat-sharing agreement that gives Congress 28 assembly seats and a Rajya Sabha berth.

Chief minister M K Stalin and TNCC president K Selvaperunthagai signed the agreement at the DMK headquarters in the presence of AICC member Girish Chodankar and senior DMK leaders, including Kanimozhi, who played a crucial role in ending the impasse.

"We are satisfied," Selvaperunthagai told reporters at Anna Arivalayam. "AICC will announce our RS candidate." The negotiation had started with some hard bargaining. Congress demanded 41 seats and DMK offered 25, the same as in 2021. After multiple rounds of back-channel talk, a last-ditch effort by former Union minister P Chidambaram, and late-night telephone calls by Kanimozhi to Congress leaders, DMK agreed to increase its offer to 27 seats on Tuesday, and later to 28.

Congress negotiators scaled down their demand to 35 and later 30. Congress sources said while Rahul Gandhi was keen on a larger number of seats, Sonia Gandhi finally prevailed upon him to settle for 28 as the party couldn't afford to antagonise DMK which is its prime supporter at the national level against BJP. Congress has also dropped, for now, the demand for power sharing. Chodankar refused to reply to a reporter's question if power-sharing figured in the final round of talks.

Softening of the stand became inevitable as the two parties realised keeping the alliance intact is crucial for both. Congress's vote share, particularly in minority-dominated pockets, has contributed to DMK front's victory. With actor Vijay's TVK expected to make inroads in the minority vote bank, retaining Congress was essential for Stalin. For Congress, being with DMK is crucial not just in TN, but at Centre too. Though some Congress leaders favoured aligning with TVK, many were apprehensive. Aligning with DMK meant a higher chance of win.

DMK holds talks with minor parties

Communist Party of India (CPI), Kamal Hasaan-led Makkal Needhi Maiam (MNM) and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) held seat-sharing talks with DMK Wednesday. All three parties refused to divulge details of the number of seats they sought. CPI state secretary M Veerapandian said CPI will hold a third round of talks on Thursday. TNN

Nitish's RS tenure to kick in after April 9

▸ Continued from page 1

It was apparent when for the first time Nitish Kumar ceded the home portfolio to one of his two BJP deputies, Samrat Choudhary. However, they added that Nitish Kumar will not be replaced immediately as his RS tenure will kick in when he takes oath after April 9, the date of retirement of the outgoing members.

Samrat, who hails from Kushwaha caste, the 2nd largest OBC community after Yadavs, is seen as an obvious front-runner following his rapid ascent in BJP. He was its state unit president before being picked by the party brass as one of its two Dy CMs along with Vijay Kumar Sinha. He is considered a notch above his peer, which was evident in BJP's decision to give him charge of home. His social profile coupled with political acumen are also helpful.

Another contender is Nityanand Rai, one of Shah's deputies in the Union home ministry, a seasoned organisational man unlike Chaudhary, who cycled through various parties before joining BJP. A Yadav, Rai's elevation would give BJP an opportunity to make a fresh outreach to the influential caste which has been loyal to Lalu Yadav's RJD.

END OF AN ERA? FROM 10-TIME CM TO UPPER HOUSE

- **Led BJP-JDU alliance to win over 80%** of seats in the assembly elections last Nov
- **Socialist icon Ram Manohar Lohia's disciple**, he took part in **JP movement**, was among young politicians jailed during emergency
- **Elected as MLA in 1985**, also the last time. Ever since, he has been either an MLC or MP
- Won LS polls from Barh in 1989, remained its MP for 15 years. **Served as railway minister** in Vajpayee govt in 1999
- **Became CM first time in 2000.** Went on to serve as CM nine more times, in **alliance with NDA or RJD-Congress**
- Turned 75 on Sunday. There are **signs his son will join Bihar govt** to enthuse JD(U) ranks

PM Modi with Nitish Kumar when he took oath as CM for 10th time last Nov

With Bihar set to join the states with its CM, BJP will now be heading govts in the entire Hindi-speaking belt except Himachal. Nitish has been at the helm since 2005 except for a brief period after 2014 LS polls when he passed the baton to Jitan Ram Manjhi after his party's poor show. In the meantime, he switched alliances and embraced RJD twice only to go back to BJP but ensuring that he remained the swing factor in the state's fractured politics despite his party's decline in the recent years. Informed sources said a section of party members strongly opposed to Nitish shifting to national politics.

Upset with grandson, man tries to cancel gift deed, HC says no

Pinto.Deepak@timesofindia.com

The dispute centred on a 2018 registered gift deed which had been gifted to the 40-year-old appellant by his grandfather

Hyderabad: In a significant ruling clarifying the scope of powers under the senior citizens' welfare law, Telangana high court has set aside orders cancelling a gift deed executed by a grandfather in favour of his grandson.

The dispute centred on a 2018 registered gift deed relating to a house built on a 247 square yard plot in Kothapet, which had been gifted to the 40-year-old appellant by his grandfather.

The court said that the commissioner of the maintenance and welfare of parents, senior citizens, and transgender persons department lacked jurisdiction to entertain a second appeal under the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007.

Alleging neglect, the 90-year-old grandfather sought cancellation of the gift deed. Acting on his plea, authorities annulled the document.

Disposing of the appeal, a bench comprising Chief Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh and Justice GM Mohiuddin ruled that the entire proceedings leading to the cancellation were without statutory authority and therefore void. The grandfather had initially questioned the deed on the ground that it was not executed voluntarily and had been obtained under suspicious circumstances.

However, the district collector, the primary authority tasked with implementing the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, upheld the validity of the document. The collector found that the deed had been duly registered and that there was no convincing material to establish that the donor was under pressure or incapable of understanding the nature of the transaction.

The collector further held that once a gift deed is executed, accepted and registered, it carries legal sanctity unless strong evidence is produced to invalidate it. Aggrieved by this finding, the 90-year-old retired headmaster approached the commissioner seeking a review. The deed was subsequently cancelled in his favour.

When the appellant challenged the cancellation order, a single judge of the high court initially upheld it.

Hearing the appeal against the single judge order, the division bench observed that the essential ingredients of a valid gift — voluntary execution, acceptance by the donee and proper registration — had been satisfied. It also underscored that appellate interference is limited where factual findings are supported by evidence.

Allowing the appeal, the bench held that the impugned orders suffered from legal infirmity and restored the validity of the gift deed.

Raj set to table 'disturbed areas' property sales bill tomorrow

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Jaipur: The Rajasthan govt is set to introduce the "Rajasthan Prohibition of Transfer of Immovable Property and Provision for Protection of Tenants from Eviction from Premises in Disturbed Areas Bill, 2026" in the assembly this Friday.

The proposed bill aims to enable the state govt to designate any locality as a "disturbed area," allowing for stringent regulation on property transactions there, much like existing legislation in Gujarat, enacted in 1991. Under the draft law, localities deemed at risk of riots, mob violence, or serious threats to public order can be classified as disturbed areas through an official gazette notification. One centerpiece provision of the proposed legislation is the requirement for prior permission from a designated authority for any sale or transfer of property within these disturbed areas, making unregulated property transactions nearly impossible.

Divorce cannot be granted based on WhatsApp chats, rules Bombay HC

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'The matter is remanded back for determination of all the issues raised in the petition by leading evidence,' the Bombay high court judges directed

Mumbai: Bombay high court has set aside an order of a family court that granted divorce to a man on the ground of cruelty based on WhatsApp chats with his wife.

"Merely relying on the WhatsApp chat, the divorce decree cannot be granted, since it is not proved by leading evidence," said Justices Bharati Dangre and Manjusha Deshpande in the Feb 27 order. They remanded the matter back to the Nashik family court, "granting opportunity to the appellant-wife to be heard and liberty to lead evidence."

The wife challenged the family court's May 2025 judgment and order that allowed her husband's petition for divorce under Hindu Marriage Act's Section 13 (1) (ia) for cruelty. Her advocate, Shubham Sane, said the order was passed ex-parte. The family court judge relied upon WhatsApp chats to prove there was cruelty at the hands of the respondent wife.

The family court's observations stated that the husband's "unchallenged testimony" is supported by WhatsApp and SMS chats. The chats clearly show the wife's insistence to shift to Pune by leaving his parents in Nashik. There were "derogatory" messages used for her sister-in-law and mother-in-law. Disillusioned by her husband's refusal to shift to Pune, she used "pressure tactics, emotional blackmail and intemperate language against the husband and in-laws and subjected everyone to mental cruelty".

"A wife cannot use such pressure tactics, therefore, the petitioner is not supposed to live with the respondent (wife). Hence, the petitioner is entitled for divorce," the family court judge had stated.

Upon perusal of family court's observations, the HC judges said it is apparent that the husband's testimony was supported by the chats. "There is no opportunity given to the wife to rebut the said evidence by the wife," they added.

They further noted that the family court, relying on its observations, had held that cruelty was proved against the husband at the hands of the wife and accordingly, the husband needs to be granted divorce decree on the ground of cruelty. The judges then said a divorce decree cannot be granted by merely relying on WA chats, "since it is not proved by leading evidence." Therefore, "the judgment and decree of divorce needs to be set aside by remanding the matter back to the family court".

MVA picks Pawar for sole winnable RS seat from Maha

Mumbai: After strong claims made by all three of its constituents, MVA has finally decided to nominate NCP(SP) chief **Sharad Pawar** as its candidate for the alliance's sole winnable RS seat from Maharashtra. Thursday is the last day to file nominations for the March 16 polls, **report Vijay V Singh & Chaitanya Marpakwar**.

State Congress chief Harshwardhan Sapkal and party colleague Vijay Wadettiwar, along with NCP (SP) MP and Pawar's daughter Supriya Sule, addressed a press conference at the Congress office in south Mumbai to announce Pawar's name on Wednesday. Sule said Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut had visited Pawar earlier in the day.

Asked about Shiv Sena (UBT) politicians' absence at the press meet, Sule said their party MP Sanjay Raut had visited Sharad Pawar earlier in the day, indicating the party's support for him. Later, Raut posted on social media, "Congress finally took the decision over Rajya Sabha. The MVA is one and will remain together."

Manipur CM assigns portfolios to two dy CMs & two ministers

Imphal: In a bid to streamline governance, the Manipur govt on Wednesday distributed key portfolios among the chief minister, his two deputies and two ministers under Rule 6(1) of the Rules of Business, **reports Donald Sairem**.

The move comes exactly a month after chief minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh and his council of ministers were sworn in on Feb 4, following nearly a year of President's Rule in the state.

Khemchand has retained charge of all departments not specifically allotted to other ministers. Deputy chief minister Nemcha Kipgen, from the Kuki-Zo community, has been entrusted with the rural development & panchayati raj and tribal affairs & hills departments — portfolios central to grassroots governance and tribal welfare.

Deputy chief minister Losii Dikho, representing the Naga community, has been assigned the public health engineering department along with forest, environment & climate change, placing him at the helm of water supply, sanitation, and environmental governance.

Nepal votes today: Veteran Oli faces tough fight vs Balen

Vishant.Agarwala
@timesofindia.com

KEY PLAYERS — OLD GUARD VS NEW

- **Balendra Shah** (35) | RSP's PM face, former rapper & protest-era political symbol. Campaign against corruption
- **KP Sharma Oli** (74) | UML heavyweight, 4-time PM. Banking on stability pitch
- **Pushpa Kamal Dahal** (Prachanda) (71) | Maoist strategist, 3-time PM
- **Gagan Thapa** (49) | Congress reform mascot

POLL IN NUMBERS

- **1.9 crore** eligible voters
- **40–45%** voters under 40
- **275** seats in House of Representatives; 138 seats needed for majority
- **6,500+** candidates

Kathmandu: As Nepal votes on Thursday, a generational shift has reshaped the political mood in the Himalayan nation. In Kathmandu and other cities, many Gen Z voters — the cohort that toppled the KP Sharma Oli govt and propelled figures like the 35-year-old Balendra Shah (Balen) into prominence — have grown impatient with Nepal's traditional leadership. Yet Oli remains one of the most enduring faces of Nepal's political establishment.

Even after years of turbulence, Oli commands loyalty in Jhapa-5, the constituency along eastern Nepal's border with India that has anchored his national career. This time though Balen has chosen to challenge him in a direct contest, as if to prove a point.

Born in 1952, Oli came of age during Nepal's Panchayat era, when political parties were banned – in 1970, as a teenage communist activist opposing the monarchy's partyless system. Arrested in Oct 1973 for his role in the Jhapa rebellion and anti-monarchy activities, he spent 14 years in prison, four of them in solitary confinement. Decades later, the former dissident would become one of the most powerful figures in the very establishment he once fought.

Those years shaped his political instincts. "Leaders who came through Panchayat-era prisons developed a hard view of politics," a political analyst told a Nepali daily in 2018.

After the 1990 People's Movement restored multiparty democracy, Oli entered open politics through the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist).

His national breakthrough came in 2015, when Nepal adopted a new constitution and relations with India deteriorated sharply. Protests along the southern border disrupted the flow of fuel, medicines and essential supplies into the landlocked country. The shortages lasted months and were widely seen in Nepal as an unofficial blockade by India. Oli cast the crisis as a question of sovereignty and national dignity, a message that resonated. The nationalist sentiment that followed helped a left alliance sweep the 2017 elections, bringing him back to office with a rare parliamentary majority.

But the stability he promised proved short-lived. Facing dissent within his own party, Oli dissolved parliament in Dec 2020. Nepal's Supreme Court reinstated it. In May 2021 he dissolved it again, triggering another constitutional confrontation that eventually forced him out of office at that time. Oli returned to office again in 2024 as part of a coalition govt and was PM during the Gen Z protests last Sept. Many in Nepal believed that his resignation after the protests would end his political career. Instead, Oli has returned, a reminder of the resilience that has defined his five-decades-old career.

Oxford museum set to return 500-yr-old statue taken from TN temple

Naomi Canton

Ashmolean Museum

The Ashmolean Museum acquired the statue in good faith in 1967, but later discovered it to have been sold by a private collector

A 16th-century bronze statue of Saint Tirumankai Alvar, taken from a temple in Tamil Nadu, is among several Indian heritage items that are being returned to India from the UK.

The Ashmolean Museum in Oxford acquired the 57.5cm tall statue of the South Indian Hindu saint in good faith in 1967 and had it on display.

According to Sotheby's, it was sold to the museum by the private collector, Dr J R Belmont (1886–1981). There is no information on how it entered his collection.

However, in Nov 2019, a French scholar alerted the University of Oxford museum to research indicating that a photograph of the bronze had been taken in 1957 in the temple of Soundarrajaperumal temple in Thadikombu, a village in Tamil Nadu. This made the museum aware that its provenance was unclear, so the museum decided to investigate.

Although no formal claim had been made, the Ashmolean wrote to the Indian High Commission on 16 Dec 2019, requesting further information and indicating the museum's willingness to discuss its possible return.

On 11 Feb 2020, a temple executive officer filed a police report noting that a modern replica had replaced the original bronze. The Indian High Commissioner then made a formal claim for return of the bronze on 3 March 2020.

At request of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), the museum submitted results to inform a report on its provenance. The statue will now be transferred to ASI in India.

Finnish president begins 4-day visit to India to shore up strategic ties

New Delhi: Finnish President **Alexander Stubb** began a four-day visit to India on Wednesday to shore up bilateral cooperation across a wide spectrum of areas, including trade, investment and critical technology.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, welcoming Stubb, said his visit will take India-Finland relations to "new heights"

Stubb will hold talks with Prime Minister Modi on Thursday following which the two sides are expected to firm up a number of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) to boost cooperation in a number of sectors.

The crisis in West Asia is likely to feature prominently in the meeting.

"The visit will further strengthen the relations between Finland and India, including in the area of trade," Stubb said on social media before leaving for New Delhi.

The Finnish president will be the chief guest at the inaugural session of the Raisina Dialogue on Thursday evening. PTI

Government of Maharashtra
General Administration Department

An Advertisement published on 05 March, 2026 for filling up 4 posts of members of the body of Lokayukta (2 Judicial Members and 2 other than Judicial Members) is available on website www.maharashtra.gov.in of the Government of Maharashtra. The aspiring candidates can submit their applications in a prescribed time limit.

Place: Mumbai
Date: 05 March, 2026

Sd/-
(Neeta Shinde)
Deputy Secretary
General Administration Department,
Government of Maharashtra

DGIPR/2025-2026/6297

Government Certificate Course on
Cyber Law and Cyber Crime Investigation
Sessions include hands on practice
Course Timing- 2 PM TO 5.30 PM
Course Duration 4 Days
ऑनलाइन ONLINE
Course Date- 7, 8, 14, 15 March 2026
Email id : training@idemi.org Web : www.idemi.org Ph.: (022) 2405 0301/2/3/4
Contest : Introduction to Cyber Law, Information Technology Act, Real-time Cyber Crime Case Study, Cyber Policy, Cyber Crime Investigation Methodology, Practical Tools for Cyber Crime Investigation, Digital Forensics, Real Case Investigation with Simulation
For regular Fees- 3000+18 % GST
(fees are not refundable)
After successful completion, certificate will be issued
For - Lawyers,Law practitioners,Law Students, Police,and interested candidates
Contact - 9403566219, 9699772711, 8007765693, 9869087617

TAMIL NADU TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD
Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

Specification No.	Tender Inviting Authority	Name of the Work
PC 1136	CE / P&C	AMC for the SAMSAT IT infrastructure DATA CENTRE
T-2373 & T-2374	CE / Transmission	Supply of auto transformers & Solid Core Insulators
ETS No 66 & 67/25-26	SE / GCC / Coimbatore	Civil, Electrical & Line works @ 110 KV SS

For details of works / Procurement / Due date of submission / opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit websites: www.tantransco.gov.in, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app
DIPR/1586/Tender/2026

The Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation Limited
Door No.294/1D, 100 Feet Road (Tadigadapa to Enikepadu Road), Kanuru, Vijayawada-521137, Andhra Pradesh. India

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EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION ON CONTRACT BASIS

APMDC with RPO (Scaler Consultancy Pvt. Ltd.) invites applications for the following position from the eligible candidates with required qualifications as prescribed in the portal. The post is purely on contract basis on the requirement of the Corporation.

SL NO	Name of the Post	No of Posts	Place of posting
1	Vice President - Coal	01	Head Office, Vijayawada
2	Vice President - HMBS	01	Head Office, Vijayawada
3	Vice President - Minerals	01	Head Office, Vijayawada

The detailed description of the post wise can be downloaded from our website **www.apmdc.ap.gov.in/Careers**. The Corporation has right to modify the conditions or cancel the advertisement without assigning any reason and further notice.The last date for submission of applications by online to e-mail:**response@scalerconsulting.com**. is on or before 20.03.2026 by 05.00 PM.
Place: Vijayawada
Date: 05.03.2026
Sd/- **MANAGING DIRECTOR**
DIPR No:4882PP/CL/ADVT/1/1/2021-22 Dt:04/03/2026

ಉಪನಗರ ವರ್ತುಲ ರಸ್ತೆ (STRR) ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ
ಎಲ್.ಆರ್.ಡಿ.ಇ. ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ನಂ.1, ಅಲಿ ಆಸ್ಕರ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560 052
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 22263479

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: STRRPA/ಆಡಳಿತ/01/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04.03.2026

ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಉಪನಗರ ವರ್ತುಲ ರಸ್ತೆ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರವು (STRRPA) ಇನ್ನು ಮುಂದೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 05.03.2026 ರಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ವಿಳಾಸದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂದು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರುಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಉಪನಗರ ವರ್ತುಲ ರಸ್ತೆ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ,
2ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ವನವಿಕಾಸ,
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ,
18ನೇ ಅಡ್ಡರಸ್ತೆ, ಮಲ್ಲೇಶ್ವರಂ,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560003.

ಸಹಿ/-
ಸದಸ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು
ಹಾಗೂ ನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಯೋಜನಾ
ಜಂಟಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು,
ಉಪನಗರ ವರ್ತುಲ ರಸ್ತೆ (STRR) ಯೋಜನಾ
ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

ಪ್ರಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/6011/ಆಕಾರ್/2025-26

राष्ट्रीय वित्तीय शिक्षा केन्द्र
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

NCFE is inviting Request for Proposal (RFP) for **Design, Development, Implementation and Maintenance of a Financial Literacy Assessment Portal for NCFE**. Bidders may submit their response with all the necessary documents on or before **18th March 2026** by **16:00 hrs**. The RFP document may be downloaded from NCFE's website **www.ncfe.org.in/tenders**

Note: Corrigendum & addendum, if any, will be published at www.ncfe.org.in

EC cleans up T'gana electoral rolls ahead of SIR

Hyderabad: The Election Commission has carried out extensive revisions of the 2002 electoral rolls, to be used for the SIR in May. The errors were fixed a day after **TOI** published a report about absurd polling station names creeping into the rolls making it difficult for voters in Telangana to track their names.

TOI's report on March 3 had shown how nonsensical words and phrases like 'For Pakistan', 'Slingshot', 'Cockatoo', 'Cashew Lizard', 'Big Goot', and 'Goat's Nest', had been used in the rolls to represent polling stations. After the revisions, 'The Knee' and 'Cockatoo' were revised to Mokila and Kokapet in Chevella constituency – 2 key upcoming residential hubs on Hyderabad's periphery.

Similarly, 'A small salon' was corrected to Chinna Mangalaram, 'Slingshot' to Kammeta, and 'Find the pumpkin' to Gummadi Doddi. "The errors happened because of loose translation from Telugu to English," said C Sudharshan Reddy, state CEO.

TIMES IMPACT

Some of the other polling station names, which were corrected, include 'Lazy' to Sommidi, 'For Pakistan' to Pak Patla, 'Among the monkeys' to Kothulanaduma, and 'Johncompete' to Jankampet.

"We had corrected these names in our list about three months back. The same might not have reflected on the website. We think these errors might have crept in while uploading the data, as the software used seems to have translated Telugu words into English," said an electoral registration officer . Activists, meanwhile, raised concerns over such negligence and added that the issue cannot be ignored on the assumption that it was a translation error. "Action should be initiated against those responsible, as there is no way people could have identified their polling stations using these names. Had these absurdities not been detected, it could have resulted in names of lakhs of voters being deleted from the rolls" said Syed Jalaluddin Zafar, president of Youth Welfare Telangana, an NGO. TNN

Bengal SIR scrutiny fear: 3 end lives in 48 hrs, another dies 'over anxiety'

Kolkata: As many as three who were under the shadow of SIR adjudication died by suicide over 48 hours in West Bengal. Another died of health complications, with his family blaming SIR-related anxiety for the death.

Rafique Ali Gazi, a 44-year-old Magrahat van driver, hanged himself allegedly on Tuesday night after discovering that his name was marked as "under adjudication" in the final voter list published last Saturday. Rafique's wife Amina Bibi lodged a written complaint at Usti police station against the EC.

In Jalpaiguri, as 62-year-old Gourango De died by suicide on Tuesday morning, his family claimed that he took the extreme out of extreme anxiety because of SIR. The family claimed that De had voted for over 40 years but, for some reason, his name did not feature in 2002 voter list. In Malda, Hazera Biwi (43) died by consuming poison on Tuesday after she found her name under adjudication.

State minister Tajmul Hossain said the EC cannot avoid its responsibility. TNN

MYSORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

In Mysore... My Home

E-Auction Notification of Corner, Intermediate, Premium Sites in prominent locations Developed by Mysore Development Authority

No.MDA/E-AN/02/2025-26 / 27.02.2026

1) E-Auction Commencement Date: 11.03.2026 after 6.00 PM Indian Standard Time 2) Last date for expressing interest to participate in the e-auction for serial numbers 1 to 50 : 23.03.2026 up to 5.00 PM Indian Standard Time And the date of commencement of direct bidding for e-auction is 26.03.2026 at 11.00 AM Indian Standard Time and the date of Closing direct bidding is 27.03.2026 upto 4:00 PM Indian Standard Time (Delta Time 5:00 minutes) 3) Last date for expressing interest to participate in the e-auction for serial numbers 51 to 100 : 23.03.2026 up to 5.00 PM Indian Standard Time And the date of commencement of direct bidding for e-auction is 30.03.2026 at 11.00 AM Indian Standard Time and the date of Closing direct bidding is 01.04.2026 upto 4:00 PM Indian Standard Time (Delta Time 5:00 minutes) 4) Last date for expressing interest to participate in the e-auction for serial numbers 101 to 150 : 23.03.2026 up to 5.00 PM Indian Standard Time And the date of commencement of direct bidding for e-auction is 02.04.2026 at 11.00 AM Indian Standard Time and the date of Closing direct bidding is 04.04.2026 upto 4:00 PM Indian Standard Time (Delta Time 5:00 minutes). 5) Last date for expressing interest to participate in the e-auction for serial numbers 151 to 200 : 23.03.2026 up to 5.00 PM Indian Standard Time And the date of commencement of direct bidding for e-auction is 06.04.2026 at 11.00 AM Indian Standard Time and the date of Closing direct bidding is 07.04.2026 upto 4:00 PM Indian Standard Time (Delta Time 5:00 minutes).

Sl. No.	Layout Name	Site No.	Inter./ Corner	Road Facing/ In Mtr.	Measurement (In mtrs) N-S	Measurement (In mtrs) E-W	Area in Sq mtrs	Value of Sq. mtrs	Site Value (Rs. In Lakhs)
	Corner and Intermediate sites								
1	Nachanahalli-Kuppalur 3rd Stage 'D' Block	99	Corner	West 9.00	13.00	18.00	234.00	79256.00	185.46
2	JP Nagara 1st Stage 'F' Block	72	Corner	E-N 9.00	24.00	(18.00+19.00)/2	444.00	79256.00	351.90
3	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	754	Corner	12-9 E-N	11.23	18.00	201.06	64986.00	131.02
4	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	1025/B	Intermediate	East 9.00	6.00	9.00	54.00	58003.00	31.32
5	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	1050/B	Intermediate	West 9.00	6.00	9.00	54.00	58003.00	31.32
6	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	1229	Intermediate	South 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	58003.00	62.64
7	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	16[illegible]5	Corner	18-9 N-E	12.00	9.00	108.00	64986.00	70.18
8	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	16[illegible]6	Corner	9.00 E-S	12.00	9.00	108.00	64986.00	70.18
9	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	1631	Corner	12-9 E-N	12.00	8.50	102.00	64986.00	66.29
10	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	1631/F	Corner	9.00 N-W	12.00	(13.00+14.60)/2	165.60	64986.00	107.62
11	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	1632	Corner	12-9 E-S	12.00	8.50	102.00	64986.00	66.29
12	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	1632/A	Intermediate	South 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	58003.00	62.64
13	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	1632/F	Corner	9.00 W-S	12.00	(11.00+13.00)/2	144.00	64986.00	93.58
14	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	1638/A	Intermediate	North 9.00	9.00	6.00	54.00	58003.00	31.32
15	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	1638/C	Corner	9.00 N-W	9.00	(9.50+7.80)/2	77.85	64986.00	50.59
16	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	1644	Corner	12-9 E-N	9.00	(5.40+5.00)/2	51.30	64986.00	33.34
17	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	1645	Corner	12-9 E-S	9.00	5.40	48.60	64986.00	31.58
18	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	1651/D	Corner	9.00 W-S	9.00	(7.80+5.00)/2	62.10	64986.00	40.36
19	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	1660	Corner	9.00 W-S	(8.50+8.20)\2	12.00	100.20	64986.00	65.12
20	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	1660/A	Intermediate	West 9.00	9.00	12.00	108.00	58003.00	62.64
21	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	1670	Corner	18-12 N-W	9.00	12.00	108.00	64986.00	70.18
22	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	1671	Corner	8-[illegible]2 N-E	9.00	12.00	108.00	64986.00	70.18
23	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	2929	Corner	9-12 N-W	9.00	5.90	53.10	64986.00	34.51
24	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	E-141/A	Intermediate	North 9.00	(10+8.08)/2	37.00	166.13	58003.00	96.36
25	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	2930	Corner	12.00 S-W	9.00	5.90	53.10	64986.00	34.51
26	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	2956	Corner	12.00 S-E	(5.00+6.20)/2	9.00	50.40	64986.00	32.75
27	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	2957	Corner	12-9 S-W	(7.00+6.20)/2	9.00	59.40	64986.00	38.60
28	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	2963	Intermediate	West 9.00	6.00	9.00	54.00	58003.00	31.32
29	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	2969	Corner	9.00 N-W	6.00	9.00	54.00	64986.00	35.09
30	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	3098	Intermediate	South 12.00	18.00	12.00	216.00	58003.00	125.29
31	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	4499	Intermediate	North 24.00	24.00	15.00	360.00	58003.00	208.81
32	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	4501	Corner	24-[illegible]2 N-E	24.00	(15.50+17.50)/2	396.00	64986.00	257.34
33	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	4553	Corner	[illegible]2-[illegible]2 S-E	12.00	11.80	141.60	64986.00	92.02
34	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	45[illegible]6	Corner	[illegible]2-[illegible]2 S-E	18.00	(16.00+17.00)/2	297.00	64986.00	193.01
35	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	2944	Corner	12-9 N-E	6.80	9.00	61.20	64986.00	39.77
36	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	1755	Corner	N-E 9.00	24.00	16.15	387.60	85009.00	333.37
37	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	1766	Corner	N-E 9.00	24.00	(16.50+16.00)/2	390.00	85009.00	335.44
38	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	2847	Corner	E-S 9.00	12.00	10.40	124.80	85009.00	107.34
39	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	4776	Corner	9-12 N-W	9.00	(3.90+3.96)/2	35.37	85009.00	30.42
40	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	6125	Corner	N-E 9.00	24.00	12.20	292.80	85009.00	251.83
41	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	7030	Corner	N-E 9.00	4.60	18.00	82.80	85009.00	71.22
42	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	7261	Corner	S-E 9.00	8.40	12.00	100.80	85009.00	85.70
43	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	7326	Corner	S-W 9.00	8.80	12.00	105.60	85009.00	90.83
44	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9004	Intermediate	North 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
45	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9005	Intermediate	North 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
46	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9006	Intermediate	North 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
47	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9007	Intermediate	North 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
48	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9008	Intermediate	North 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
49	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9009	Intermediate	North 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
50	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9010	Intermediate	North 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
51	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9011	Intermediate	North 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
52	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9013	Intermediate	North 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
53	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9016	Intermediate	North 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
54	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9028	Intermediate	South 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
55	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9029	Intermediate	South 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
56	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9030	Intermediate	South 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
57	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9031	Intermediate	South 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
58	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9032	Intermediate	South 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
59	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9033	Intermediate	South 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
60	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9034	Intermediate	South 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
61	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9035	Intermediate	South 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
62	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9036	Intermediate	South 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
63	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9037	Intermediate	South 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
64	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9039	Intermediate	South 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
65	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9063	Intermediate	North 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
66	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9064	Intermediate	North 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
67	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9065	Intermediate	North 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
68	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9067	Intermediate	North 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
69	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9068	Intermediate	North 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
70	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9069	Intermediate	North 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
71	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9070	Intermediate	North 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
72	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9071	Intermediate	North 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
73	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9072	Intermediate	North 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
74	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9073	Intermediate	North 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
75	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9074	Intermediate	North 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
76	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9075	Intermediate	North 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
77	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9076	Intermediate	North 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
78	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9089	Intermediate	South 9.00	18.00	12.00	216.00	59275.00	128.03
79	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9090	Intermediate	South 9.00	18.00	12.00	216.00	59275.00	128.03
80	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9091	Intermediate	South 9.00	18.00	12.00	216.00	59275.00	128.03
81	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9092	Intermediate	South 9.00	18.00	12.00	216.00	59275.00	128.03
82	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9093	Intermediate	South 9.00	18.00	12.00	216.00	59275.00	128.03
83	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	11160	Intermediate	West 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	59275.00	128.03
84	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	11161	Intermediate	West 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	59275.00	128.03
85	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	11162	Intermediate	West 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	59275.00	128.03
86	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	11162/B	Intermediate	West 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	59275.00	128.03
87	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	11162/A	Intermediate	West 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	59275.00	128.03
88	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	11165	Intermediate	West 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	59275.00	128.03
89	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	11166	Intermediate	West 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	59275.00	128.03
90	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	11167	Intermediate	West 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	59275.00	128.03
91	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	11168	Intermediate	West 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	59275.00	128.03
92	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	11169	Intermediate	West 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	59275.00	128.03
93	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	11170	Intermediate	West 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	59275.00	128.03
94	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	11171	Intermediate	West 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	59275.00	128.03
95	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	11172	Intermediate	West 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	59275.00	128.03
96	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	11173	Intermediate	West 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	59275.00	128.03
97	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	11174	Intermediate	West 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	59275.00	128.03
98	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	11232	Intermediate	East 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	59275.00	128.03
99	Hebbal 2nd Stage	60/A	Intermediate	South 8.0 mtr	13.00	5.50	55.00	64472.00	35.45
100	Hebbal 2nd Stage	60/B	Intermediate	South 8.0 mtr	13.00	5.50	55.00	64472.00	35.45
101	Hebbal 2nd Stage	658	Intermediate	East 9.0 mtr	6.00	9.00	54.00	64472.00	34.81
102	Hebbal 2nd Stage	1017/A	Intermediate	West 7.0 mtr	6.00	9.00	54.00	64472.00	34.81
103	Hebbal 2nd Stage	2598	Corner	West 9.00	6.00	9.00	54.00	64489.00	34.82
104	Hebbal 1st Stage	1190/I	Intermediate	South 9.00	18.00	12.00	216.00	73539.00	158.84
105	Hebbal 1st Stage	1190/H	Intermediate	South 9.00	18.00	12.00	216.00	73539.00	158.84
106	Vijayanagara 2nd Stage	2784	Corner	N-W 9.00	(0.5+11.00)/2	18.00	103.50	99318.00	102.78
107	Vijayanagara 2nd Stage	2993	Corner	South & East 9.00	14.00	(9+12)/2	147.00	99318.00	146.00
108	Vijayanagara 2nd Stage	4039	Corner	West & South 9.0 & 6.0	(8+5.50)/2	12.00	81.00	99318.00	80.45
109	Vijayanagara 2nd Stage	4245	Corner	North & East 9.0 & 6.0	9.00	5.00	45.00	99318.00	44.69
110	Vijayanagara 2nd Stage	4280	Corner	South & East 9.0 & 6.0	9.00	(4.5+3.0)/2	42.75	99318.00	42.45
111	Vijayanagara 2nd Stage	4321	Corner	North & East 9.0 & 6.0	9.00	6.00	54.00	99318.00	53.63
112	Vijayanagara 2nd Stage	4360	Corner	South & East 9.0 & 6.0	9.00	7.20	64.80	99318.00	64.33
113	Vijayanagara 2nd Stage	4624	Corner	North & West 18.0 & 6.0	13.00	(18+16.5)/2	224.25	99318.00	222.72
114	Vijayanagara 2nd Stage	4739	Corner	South & East 9.0 & 9.0	8.50	9.00	76.50	99318.00	75.99
115	Vijayanagara 2nd Stage	4774	Corner	South & West 9.0 & 18.0	(15+12)/2	18.00	243.00	99318.00	241.34

Continued....

IISc launches 'Moonshot' project on brain co-processors

Bengaluru: The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Wednesday said it has launched a "Moonshot" project to develop brain co-processors that combine neuromorphic hardware with AI algorithms to enhance or restore brain function. The initiative is funded by the Pratiksha Trust, founded by Kris Gopalakrishnan and his wife Sudha.

An MoU formalising the partnership was signed at IISc in the presence of Gopalakrishnan, Prof G Rangarajan, director of IISc, and Prof B Gurumoorthy, chief executive, Foundation for Science, Innovation and Development (FSID).

"The project aims to develop both implantable and non-invasive brain co-processors capable of decoding neural activity from brain recordings, processing these signals using AI algorithms, and re-encoding them into the brain through neural stimulation or neurofeedback," IISc said.

The devices are expected to support cognitive rehabilitation, particularly for stroke survivors who have lost functions such as goal-directed reach and grasp.

Gopalakrishnan said: "India is emerging as a global leader in neuroscience by uniting foundational research with clinical applications through international partnerships. The Brain Co-Processors Moonshot Project accelerates the development of innovative medical technologies." TNN

India's breast cancer burden doubles in 33yrs

Study Estimates Huge Increase In Cases By 2050

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

ALARMING: Globally, breast cancer continues to be the leading cause of cancer-related illness and premature death among women

Mumbai: The incidence of breast cancer in India increased by more than double between 1990 and 2023, according to an 204-country study that estimates another huge increase in cases by 2050 if "six modifiable risk factors" are not tackled.

The Global Burden of Disease Study Breast Cancer Collaborators, published in 'The Lancet Oncology', said the incidence rate in India climbed from 13 per 1 lakh women in 1990 to 29.4 per 1 lakh in 2023. In the same period, the age-standardised mortality rate increased from 8.9 to 15.5, marking a 74% rise in breast cancer deaths in India.

Globally, breast cancer continues to be the leading cause of cancer-related illness and premature death among women worldwide. In 2023, there were an estimated 23 lakh new breast cancer cases and 7.6 lakh deaths. By 2050, cases could rise by a third to 3.5 million despite advances and treatment, said the Lancet study.

Globally, three times as many new breast cancer cases were diagnosed in women aged 55 or older in 2023 (161 vs 50 new cases per 1 lakh women) compared to women aged 20-54. However, rates of new cases have risen in women aged 20-54 (up 29%) since 1990, with rates in older women not changing substantially. These differences reflect changing age patterns as well as changes in risk factors, which vary between pre- and post-menopausal women.

"In middle-income countries such as India, the total economic burden of breast cancer was estimated at $8-13 billion in 2021 and is projected to rise to $14·0 billion by 2030 as incidence continues to increase," it added.

The study also said that "over a quarter of healthy years lost to breast cancer are due to six modifiable risk factors, including high red meat intake, tobacco, high blood sugar, and high BMI—offering important opportunities for prevention."

"The projected rise in breast cancer burden to 2050 is not fate — it's a forecast, and, therefore, preventable. This analysis is a policy blueprint. With organized screening, timely diagnostics, and universal access to evidence-based treatment, we can bend the curve. The science is ready. The time to act is now," said Dr (Prof) Jyoti Bajpai, lead medical & precision oncologist from Apollo Hospital, Navi Mumbai.

Tata Memorial Centre director Dr Sudeep Gupta pointed out that with increased levels of development, there is often a concomitant rise in the incidence of some cancer, in India it is breast cancer. "There is a change in reproduction pattern, increase in tobacco and alcohol use, among other reasons that have been seen across the globe," said Dr Gupta.

The study's authors said that progress towards ensuring all women have an equal chance to survive breast cancer can only be achieved through a combination of aggressive prevention strategies, ensuring well-functioning health systems capable of early diagnosis and comprehensive treatment, and making cancer services both accessible and affordable to all.

India ranks 2nd in childhood obesity: Report

Mini.Thomas@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: India is staring at an obesity epidemic.

According to the World Obesity Atlas, 2026, released on World Obesity Day on Wednesday, China, India and the US top the list of countries with more than one crore children with high body mass index (BMI). China has 6.2 crore children with high BMI, including 3.3 crore who are obese. India follows with 4.1 crore children with high BMI and 1.4 crore with obesity. In the US, 2.7 crore children have high BMI, of whom 1.3 crore are obese.

By 2040, two crore children in India will be living with obesity, suggests the Atlas. It also estimates that by 2040, at least 12 crore school-age children could show early signs of chronic diseases, including hypertension and cardiovascular diseases.

In India, from 2025-2040, the number of those aged between 5 and 19 years with disease indicators attributed to high BMI is projected to rise substantially.

The Atlas data shows how action to address childhood obesity remains inadequate worldwide. The report also notes that obesity could increase the risk of non-communicable diseases among children.

Johanna Ralston, chief executive of World Obesity Federation, said: "Increase in childhood obesity worldwide shows we have failed to take seriously a disease that affects one in five children."

World Obesity Federation says strong action is needed to reverse current trends, including taxes on sugar-sweetened beverages, restrictions on marketing that targets children, implementation of global physical activity recommendations for children, protection of breastfeeding, healthier school food standards, and integration of prevention and care into primary health systems.

AREAS OF CONCERN

- 74% of adolescents between 11 and 17 fail to meet recommended physical activity levels
- 35.5% of school-age children receive school meals
- 32.6% of infants aged 1-5 months experience sub-optimal breastfeeding
- 13.4% of women aged 15-49 have high BMI
- 4.2% of women aged 15-49 live with Type 2 diabetes
- Children aged 6-10 consume an average of 0-50 ml of sugary drinks per day

Hydroponic weed worth ₹74.5 lakh found on aircraft

Pune: Air intelligence unit of Pune Customs recovered 745 packets of hydroponic weed, worth Rs 74.5 lakh concealed in one of the lavatories of an Air India Express aircraft, after the flight landed in Pune from Bangkok on Tuesday.

The flight (IX-241) had departed from Bangkok at 2.09pm IST and landed in Pune around 4.30pm. "The weed had been packed into two food packets, which were then placed in the tissue cabinet of one of the lavatories on the aircraft. Once an international flight lands, it is carefully checked. This catch was based on intelligence inputs. There have been no arrests in the case so far," said a Pune Customs officer. TNN

Baramati crash report is full of 'major errors': Ajit Pawar's kin

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: NCP (SP) MLA **Rohit Pawar** has claimed that the preliminary report on the Baramati plane crash contains many inconsistencies and errors, raising concerns that the investigation may be attempting to shield charter company VSR Ventures as well as certain officials within the DGCA who allegedly supported the company. He presented on Wednesday a PowerPoint critique of the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau's findings.

On Jan 28, a Learjet operated by VSR Ventures crashed when attempting to land at Baramati killing all the five people onboard, including then deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar, The AAIB preliminary report released on Saturday flagged pilots' non-adherence to standard operating procedures, low visibility and absence of basic meteorological facilities at the uncontrolled airfield.

"The AAIB report says the aircraft first hit trees before impact. But there are no trees at that spot," Pawar said at a press conference. He questioned the crash sequence described in the preliminary report comparing it with CCTV footage of the accident. In the footage, the aircraft is seen sharply rolling to the left before impact, while the AAIB report states that it banked right, he said.

About the black boxes, the AAIB report said that the cockpit voice recorder (CVR) and flight data recorder (FDR) had sustained thermal damage. He questioned the claim and absence of black box photos in the report.

Among the other points and questions raised by Pawar were the absence of investigator's signature on the preliminary report; the late filing of the flight plan and subsequent modification in the early hours; the crew change last-minute and the aircraft being loaded with more fuel than required for the planned Mumbai-Baramati-Mumbai sector.

Sl. No.	Layout Name	Site No.	Inter./ Corner	Road Facing/ In Mtr.	Measurement (In mtrs) N-S	Measurement (In mtrs) E-W	Area in Sq mtrs	Value of Sq. mtrs	Site Value (Rs. In Lakhs)
116	Vijayanagara 2nd Stage	5100	Corner	South & West 9.0 & 6.0	9.00	(4.50+4.0)/2	38.25	99318.00	37.99
117	Vijayanagara 2nd Stage	5715	Corner	West & South 9.0 & 6.0	(8.50+2.00)/2	18.40	36.50	99318.00	95.94
118	Vijayanagara 2nd Stage	4795	Corner	South & West 9.0 & 6.0	(9.5+8.5)/2	12.00	106.00	99318.00	107.26
119	Devanur 2nd Stage 2nd Phase	2014	Intermediate	North 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	45429.00	98.11
120	Devanur 2nd Stage 2nd Phase	2167	Intermediate	North 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	45429.00	98.11
121	Devanur 2nd Stage 2nd Phase	2166	Intermediate	North 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	45429.00	98.11
122	Devanur 2nd Stage 2nd Phase	2290/D	Intermediate	South 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	45429.00	98.11
123	Devanur 2nd Stage 2nd Phase	2290/E	Intermediate	South 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	45429.00	98.11
124	Devanur 2nd Stage 2nd Phase	2290/F	Intermediate	South 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	45429.00	98.11
125	Devanur 2nd Stage 2nd Phase	2290/G	Intermediate	South 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	45429.00	98.11
126	Devanur 2nd Stage 2nd Phase	2290/H	Intermediate	South 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	45429.00	98.11
127	Devanur 2nd Stage 2nd Phase	2290/I	Intermediate	South9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	45429.00	98.11
128	Devanur 2nd Stage 2nd Phase	2290/J	Intermediate	South 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	45429.00	98.11
129	Devanur 2nd Stage 2nd Phase	2290/K	Intermediate	South 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	45429.00	98.11
130	Devanur 2nd Stage 2nd Phase	2233	Intermediate	West 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	45429.00	98.11
131	Devanur 2nd Stage 2nd Phase	2230	Intermediate	West 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	45429.00	98.11
132	Devanur 2nd Stage 2nd Phase	2231	Intermediate	West 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	45429.00	98.11
133	Shanthaveri Gopal Gowda	01	Corner	N:9.00 E:9.00	9.00	11.70	105.30	59180.00	62.32
134	Shanthaveri Gopal Gowda	12	Corner	S:12.00 E:9.00	9.00	11.50	75.90	59180.00	44.92
135	Shanthaveri Gopal Gowda	24	Corner	N:9.00 W:9.00	9.50	11.70	111.15	59180.00	65.78
136	Shanthaveri Gopal Gowda	79	Corner	S:12.00 W:9.00	9.00	12.00	108.00	59180.00	63.91
137	Shanthaveri Gopal Gowda	90	Corner	N: 9.00 W:9.00	10.00	11.00	110.00	59180.00	65.10
138	Shanthaveri Gopal Gowda	100	Corner	S:12.00 W:12.00	12.20	18.00	219.60	59180.00	129.96
139	Shanthaveri Gopal Gowda	133	Corner	N:12.00 E: 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	59180.00	127.83
140	Shanthaveri Gopal Gowda	144	Corner	S:12.00 E:9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	59180.00	127.83
141	Shanthaveri Gopal Gowda	121	Corner	S:12.00 W:9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	59180.00	127.83
142	Shanthaveri Gopal Gowda	120	Corner	S:12.00 E:9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	59180.00	127.83
143	Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar	280	Corner	S:9.00 W:12.00	13.00	18.00	234.00	59180.00	138.48
144	Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar	300	Corner	N:12.00 E:9.00	9.00	12.00	108.00	59180.00	63.91
145	Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar	318	Corner	N:12.00 W:12.00	12.00	6.00	72.00	59180.00	42.61
146	Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar	338	Corner	N:12.00 E: 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59180.00	63.91
147	Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar	363	Corner	S:9.00 W:12.00	12.00	13.70	164.40	59180.00	97.29
148	Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar	485	Corner	S:9.00 W:12.00	9.00	12.00	108.00	59180.00	63.91
149	Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar	653	Corner	S:9.00 W:9.00	13.00	12.00	156.00	59180.00	92.32
150	Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar	668	Corner	N:9.00 W:9.00	9.00	12.00	108.00	59180.00	63.91
151	Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar	863	Corner	N:9.00 W:12.00	18.00	12.00	216.00	59180.00	127.83
152	Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar	923	Corner	N:18.00 W:12.00	24.00	15.00	360.00	59180.00	213.05
153	Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar	1313	Corner	N:9.00 E:9.00	9.00	12.00	108.00	59180.00	63.91
154	Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar	1314	Corner	N:9.00 W:12.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	59180.00	127.83
155	Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar	1322	Corner	N:12.00 W:12.00	9.00	12.00	108.00	59180.00	63.91
156	Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar	1343	Corner	N:12.00 W:12.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59180.00	63.91
157	Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar	1415	Corner	SN:9.00 E:12.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	59180.00	127.83
158	Lalithadrinagar (South)	721	Corner	North: 18.00	9.00	12.00	108.00	59180.00	63.91
159	Lalithadrinagar (South)	722	Corner	North:18.00	9.00	12.00	108.00	59180.00	63.91
160	Gayathripuram 1st Stage	388	Intermediate	West: 9.00	9.00	14.00	126.00	64560.00	81.35
161	Gayathripuram 1st Stage	373	Intermediate	East: 9.00	12.00	15.00	180.00	64560.00	116.21
162	Gayathripuram 1st Stage	345	Intermediate	West: 9.00	10.00	12.00	120.00	64560.00	77.47
163	Gayathripuram 1st Stage	341	Intermediate	West: 9.00	10.70	12.00	128.4	64560.00	82.90
164	Gayathripuram 1st Stage	314	Intermediate	West: 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	64560.00	69.72
165	Sathagalli 2nd Stage	4622	Corner	9.00 E-N	(9.00+9.00)/2	(6.60+6.60)/2	59.39	37660.00	22.74
166	Sathagalli 2nd Stage	4649	Corner	9.00 W-N	9.00	6.00	54.00	37660.00	20.34
167	Sathagalli 2nd Stage	4646	Corner	9.00 S-W	9.00	(6.10+6.30)/2	55.80	37660.00	21.01
168	Sathagalli 2nd Stage	4597	Corner	9.00 N-W	9.20	6.10	56.12	37660.00	21.13
169	Sathagalli 2nd Stage	4596	Corner	9.00 W-S	9.00	(6.15+6.20)/2	55.37	37660.00	20.93
170	Sathagalli 2nd Stage	4545	Corner	9.00 N	9.00	(6.10+6.15)/2	55.12	37660.00	20.76
171	Sathagalli 2nd Stage	5406	Corner	9.00 E-W	9.00	(6.00+8.50)/2	65.25	37660.00	24.57
172	Sathagalli 2nd Stage	5405	Intermediate	9.00 South	9.00	6.00	54.00	32280.00	17.43
173	Sathagalli 2nd Stage	5404	Intermediate	9.00 South	9.00	6.00	54.00	32280.00	17.43
174	Sathagalli 2nd Stage	5403	Intermediate	9.00 South	9.00	6.00	54.00	32280.00	17.43
175	Sathagalli 2nd Stage	5402	Intermediate	9.00 South	9.00	6.00	54.00	32280.00	17.43
176	Hanchya-Sathagalli 'B' Zone	1698	Intermediate	9.00 East	15.00	24.00	360.00	48643.00	175.11
177	Hanchya-Sathagalli 'B' Zone	1697	Intermediate	9.00 East	15.00	24.00	360.00	48643.00	175.11
178	Hanchya-Sathagalli 'B' Zone	1696	Intermediate	9.00 East	15.00	24.00	360.00	48643.00	175.11
179	Hanchya-Sathagalli 'B' Zone	1695	Intermediate	9.00 East	15.00	24.00	360.00	48643.00	175.11
180	Hanchya-Sathagalli 'B' Zone	1694	Intermediate	9.00 East	15.00	24.00	360.00	48643.00	175.11
181	Hanchya-Sathagalli 'B' Zone	1693	Intermediate	9.00 East	15.00	24.00	360.00	48643.00	175.11
182	Hanchya-Sathagalli 'B' Zone	1692	Intermediate	9.00 East	15.00	24.00	360.00	48643.00	175.11
183	Hanchya-Sathagalli 'B' Zone	1688	Intermediate	9.00 East	15.00	24.00	360.00	48643.00	175.11
184	Hanchya-Sathagalli 'B' Zone	1689	Intermediate	9.00 East	15.00	24.00	360.00	48643.00	175.11
185	Hanchya-Sathagalli 'B' Zone	1690	Intermediate	9.00 East	15.00	24.00	360.00	48643.00	175.11
186	Hanchya-Sathagalli 'B' Zone	1691	Intermediate	9.00 East	15.00	24.00	360.00	48643.00	175.11
187	Vasanth Nagar	651	Intermediate	12.00 E-W	9.00	12.00	108.00	37660.00	40.67
188	Vasanth Nagar	682	Intermediate	12.00 E-W	9.00	12.00	108.00	37660.00	40.67
189	Vasanth Nagar	725	Intermediate	West 12.00	9.00	12.00	108.00	37660.00	40.67
190	Vasanth Nagar	754	Intermediate	West 12.00	9.00	12.00	108.00	37660.00	40.67
191	Vasanth Nagar	09	Intermediate	West 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	37660.00	81.35
192	Vasanth Nagar	10	Intermediate	West 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	37660.00	81.35
193	Vasanth Nagar	11	Intermediate	West 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	37660.00	81.35
194	Vasanth Nagar	12	Intermediate	West 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	37660.00	81.35
195	Vasanth Nagar	210	Intermediate	West 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	37660.00	81.35
196	Vasanth Nagar	1910	Intermediate	East 24.00	15.00	24.00	360.00	37660.00	135.58
197	Vasanth Nagar	1911	Intermediate	East 24.00	15.00	24.00	360.00	37660.00	135.58
198	Vasanth Nagar	1912	Intermediate	East 24.00	15.00	24.00	360.00	37660.00	135.58
199	Vasanth Nagar	1913	Intermediate	East 24.00	15.00	24.00	360.00	37660.00	135.58
200	Vasanth Nagar	1914	Intermediate	East 24.00	15.00	24.00	360.00	37660.00	135.58
								Total (Lakhs)	18629.43

Terms and Conditions of e-auction

1) The Participants of the auction should be a citizen of India. Partnership firm/Limited companies/Trusts registered in India may also participate in the e-auction. 2) E-auction participants need more information they can download the simplified e-auction user guide by logging on to http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov. in available on Citizen Division Home Page. For additional information visit kppp Portal or Contact 080 - 46010000 and 080-68948777 3) The Participants should download the Specimen Signature format (Write the Name & Father Name in Kannada & English) and Contact Details format from http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in, upload the filled formats. 4) Those who want to buy the e-auction sites jointly, should also upload the documents jointly in e-auction portal. 5) Sites will be auctioned on 'as is where is' condition. There is no provision for change of site. 6) There should be minimum of 2 bidders for the e-auction Sites. Single bidder will be rejected. 7) The 5 minutes of delta time shall be extended to the last moment bids of e-auction. For example: If the e-auction Bidding close Time is 16.00 hours, In case any bid submitted in 15.57 hours, the closure time will be extended to another 5 Minutes i.e. 16.02 hours. 8) EMD payable to participate in e-auction Rs.4.00 Lakhs for sites having the base price Rs.1.00 Crore and Above. Rs.2.00 Lakh for the sites having the base price less than Rs.1.00 Crore and e Auction processing fees also to be deposited through Debit card/ Credit Card/Net Banking to ICICI bank by e-procurement portal. 9) The minimum Bid change price is Rs.25,000/- for the sites which is having base price below Rs. 1.00 Crore and Rs.1,00,000/- for the sites which is having base price Rs. 1.00 Crore and above. 10) The highest bidder should check the site approval status in http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in, and shall remit 25% of bid amount from the bidder account only through **RTGS/NEFT (Excluding EMD of Rs. 4,00,000/- or Rs. 2,00,000/-)** before **72 hours** to Account Holder Name: Commissioner MDA Mysore, Bank of Baroda, Account No.69260100004663 (IFSC Code No. BARB0VJMUDA) (Fifth Digit will be Zero). Bidder should submit the 25% amount payment receipt and 2 Passport size photos to Office. If the successful bidder failing to pay the 25% of the bid amount their EMD amount will be forfeited. 11) Mysore Development Authority has the right to withdraw any auctioned sites at any time. 12) The auction of said sites will be held according to 1991 Karnataka Development Authorities Act (Disposal of corner and commercial sites) Rule 6(2) the Commissioner Mysore Development Authority, Mysore reserves the right to accept or reject the bid without assigning any reason and prior notice. 13) The EMD Amount of unsuccessful bidders will be returned to their Bank Account by eproc.karnataka.gov.in of Karnataka after bidding is finalized. 14) If any difference is found in the Dimension of the sites during the final transfer to the bidder, if the Dimension is less, for less Dimension amount will be refunded. If the Dimension is more, Bidder should has to pay the additional amount for the increased area. If the bidder does not agree, then 25% of the bid amount will be forfeited and the auction will be cancelled. 15) Bidder should pay the remaining 75% of bid amount from their own Bank account and should submit the receipt copy with Sale Deed request to Office.16) The Successful bidder shall pay the balance 75% amount after receiving the Auction Confirmation Letter in 45 days without interest. If who need time extension to pay the 75% amount 18% of interest will be applicable for 90 days and 21% of Interest applicable for futher 30 days with the prior permission of the commissioner. 17. As per Column 194 IA of the Income Tax Act, 196 , In case where the total value of the property auctioned exceeds Rs. 50.00 lakhs, the auction purchaser should be deduct an amount of 1 percent of the total value of the property and liable to pay the same to the Income Tax Department. 18) In case the longitude and latitude given in the auction announcement is not identified due to manual error, the bidder may confirm the same with the relevant engineers. No refund will be allowed if you request a refund of the amount paid stating that the longitude and latitude are different.

19) **CONTACT FOR LOCATION DETAILS: A)** Zonal office -1 - 1). Nachanahlli - Kuppaluru 3rd Stage, J.P.Nagara Layout Smt Roopasri, AE., Mobile: 9740029156 **B)** Zonal Office 2 Dattagalli 3rd Stage Layout Sri Rajashekar G JE., Mobile: 9880929640, **C)** Zonal Office-3 - Vijayanagara 4th Stage Layout - Sri. K.P. Sathishchandra, AE., Mobile No.9480446452 **D)** Zonal Office - 4 - Hebbal 2nd Satage Layout, Vijayanagara 2nd Stage Layout - Smt. Pavithra R. AE., Mobile No.: 8197542740 **E)** Zonal Office-5B - Devanuur 2nd Stage 2nd Phase - Sri K.P. Sathishchandra. AE., Mobile: 9480446452. **F)** Zonal Office - 6 - Santhaveri Gopalagowdanagara, Lalbahadurshastri Nagar, Lalithadri (South) - Sri Rajashekar G JE., Mobile No.9880929640 **G)** Zonal Office - 8 - Sathagalli 2nd Stage & Hanchya-Sathagalli 'B' Zone Layout & Vasanthangar Layout - Smt. Meghana, JE., Mobile No.9480884440 **20)** For information regarding Auction may obtain from website: www.mudamysore.gov.in or contact Ph No. 0821-2421529

Sd/- Commissioner

DIPR:DDM:YS:02:KS:MCA:003:2025-26

ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರ ಕಚೇರಿ, ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ವಿಭಾಗ
ಪಾವಿನೀಸ ಆವರಣ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ಎಸ್. ಮುಖ್ಯರಸ್ತೆ, ಯಾದವಗಿರಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು– 570 020

ಸಂ.: ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾ.ಇಂ.(ಪ)ಸಾ.ಟೆಂ.ಪ್ರ–27/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02.03.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ವಿವಿಧ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಒಟ್ಟು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು	ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ	ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್‌ಗೆ ಬರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ
	ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು					
1	ಮೈನಪ್ರಾ/ಕಾಇಂ(ಪ)/ಟಿ.ಎನ್–82/2025–26. ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02.03.2026	04	118.50	02.03.2026ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11ರ ನಂತರ	09.03.2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.25ರವರೆಗೆ	10.03.2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5:30ಕ್ಕೆ
2	ಮೈನಪ್ರಾ/ಕಾಇಂ(ಪ)/ಟಿ.ಎನ್–83/2025–26. ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03.03.2026	02	695.00	03.03.2026ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11ರ ನಂತರ	10.03.2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.25ರವರೆಗೆ	11.03.2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5:30ಕ್ಕೆ

ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು (https://kppp.karntaka.gov.in) ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರವನ್ನು ಕಚೇರಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ), ಸಿವಿಲ್‌ರವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ವಿಶೇಷ ಸೂಚನೆ: ಮುಂದೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಸೂಚನೆ/ಬದಲಾವಣೆ/ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ಯಾವುದೇ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಪ)
ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು.

DIPR/MYS/1784/SA/2025-26

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar
Bengaluru - 560 009. Phone No. 080-22265383, website: www.kiadb.in

IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-91/2286/2025-26 Date: 04.03.2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item Rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the works mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the work of :

Name of the Work : Formation of 15m wide road, 18m wide road, 24m wide road, 30m wide road & 45m wide road, construction of RCC Side Drain, Construction of spur culvert & Construction of box culvert at Dobaspet 5th Phase Industrial Area, Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **07.04.2026** upto **4.00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/6010/ZEN/2025-26

ಶ್ರೀ ಚಾಮುಂಡೇಶ್ವರಿ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ

ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಯವರ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಚಾಮುಂಡಿಬೆಟ್ಟ, ಮೈಸೂರು–570010
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 0821–2590027, ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್: 0821/2590082, ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: eochamunditemple@gmail.com

ಪತ್ರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಶ್ರೀಚಾಕ್ಷೇಅಪ್ರಾ(5)ಸಿಆರ್:12/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28.02.2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ

ಮೈಸೂರು ಚಾಮುಂಡಿಬೆಟ್ಟ ಶ್ರೀ ಚಾಮುಂಡೇಶ್ವರಿ ದೇವಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಸೂಚಿತ ಅವಧಿಗೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ವಿವಿಧ ಬಾಬ್ತುಗಳಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆಸಕ್ತರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಮೂನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) ಮೂಲಕ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿರುವಂತೆ (Technical qualification criteria) ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಅಗತ್ಯ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು. ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತೆ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ.ಯನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದ ಯಾವುದಾದರು ಒಂದು ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ.ಯು ಟೆಂಡರಿನ ನ್ಯಾಯ ಸಮ್ಮತಾ ಮಾನ್ಯತಾ ಅವಧಿಗಿಂತ Validity period) 45 ದಿನಗಳ ನಂತರದ ವರೆಗೆ ಮಾನ್ಯತೆ ಇರತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಹೆಸರು	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇಎಂಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
1	ಶ್ರೀ ಚಾಮುಂಡೇಶ್ವರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಮೂಹ ದೇವಸ್ಥಾನಗಳಿಗೆ ನಿತ್ಯ ಅನ್ನದಾಸೋಹ ಹಾಗೂ ದೇವಸ್ಥಾನದ ದಿನ ನಿತ್ಯದ ಬಳಕೆಗೆ ಅಗತ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಬೇಕಾದ ದಿನಸಿ ಸಾಮಾಗ್ರಿಗಳ ಸರಬರಾಜು. (12 ತಿಂಗಳ ಅವಧಿಗೆ)	1,49,63,064	3,00,000
2	ಶ್ರೀ ಚಾಮುಂಡೇಶ್ವರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಮೂಹ ದೇವಸ್ಥಾನಗಳಿಗೆ ಲಾಡು ಪ್ರಸಾದ ತಯಾರಿಕೆಗೆ ಅಗತ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಬೇಕಾದ ದಿನಸಿ ಸಾಮಾಗ್ರಿಗಳ ಸರಬರಾಜು. (12 ತಿಂಗಳ ಅವಧಿಗೆ)	3,99,27,300	8,00,000

ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯಡಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಷೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿದೆ.

(1)ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳು ಚಾಲ್ತಿಗೆ ಬರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ ದಿ:**04.03.2026** ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ **11.00** ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ (2)ಪ್ರೀ ಬಿಡ್ಡಿಂಗ್ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ ದಿ: **20.03.2026** ರ ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ **12** ಗಂಟೆಗೆ (3)ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ವಿಚಾರಣೆಗೆ ದಿ: **21.03.2026** ಸಂಜೆ **5.00** ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ (4) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ ದಿ: **24.03.2026** ರ ಸಂಜೆ **5.00** ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ (5) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ **25.03.2026** ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ **11.00** ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ (6) ಹಣಕಾಸಿನ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **27.03.2026** ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ **11.00** ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ
ಶ್ರೀ ಚಾಮುಂಡೇಶ್ವರಿ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ
ಚಾಮುಂಡಿಬೆಟ್ಟ

ಮಾಸಾಸಂ/ಮೈಸೂರು/1770/ಶಿರಸಿ ಸಾಮ/2025–26

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar,
Bengaluru – 560 009. Phone No. 080-22265383. Website: www.kiadb.in

No.: IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-29/01775/2025-26 Date:04.03.2026

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item rate Tender is invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors Registered in KPWD who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the following work as per the schedule given below:

Name of the Work: Providing Over Head Height Barrier at Various Locations at kadechur Badiyal Industrial Area, Yadgiri District **(3rd Call).**

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **16.03.2026 upto 04:00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer - 2

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-DPR-06/01774/2025-26 Date:04.03.2026

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

KIADB invites tender from reputed consultants / firms under two cover bid system having an office at Bengaluru with vast experience and proven record of similar nature of work for project mentioned below:

Name of the Work : Providing Consultancy Services for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Scientific Disposal of Industrial Solid Watse by Integrated Material Recovery Facility (MRF) and Alternate Fuel Raw Material Facility (AFR) including survey, analysis, qualitative & quantitative study, design of MRF & ARF facility etc., at plot No. 311 to 314, Belur Industrial Area, Dharwad Taluk & District **(3rd Call).**

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **16.03.2026 upto 04:00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer - 2

DIPR/CP/JA/5992/2025-26

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY

Yelahanka, BANGALORE - 560 064
Website: www.rwfindianrailways.gov.in

Tender Notice No. RWF/MOT/ASSY/2025-26/85 Dated 28.02.2026

E-Tender: On behalf of the President of India, the Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer invites electronic tender for the following work online through the website http://www.ireps.gov.in (Wksn).

Tender No.: RWF/MOT/MSSY/2025-26/85 Dtd: 28.02.2026. Name of the Work: Outsourcing the work of Operation of SNTC Assembly Line and allied activities of Assembly Shop. Estimated Cost: Rs. 2,24,30,000.00/-. EMD: Rs. 2,82,100/-. Completion Period: 12 Months. Date of Closing of Tenders: 25.03.2026 at 10:30 Hrs.

Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/AP

Tender Notice No. RWF/MOT/EMWS/2025-26/84 Dated 02.03.2026

Tender No.: RWF/MOT/EMWS/2025-26/84 Dtd: 02.03.2026. Name of the Work: Testing, Inspection and Certification of Lifting Machines, Lifting Tackles, Fork Lifts, Safety Items, Handling equipments and Pressure vessels used in the Factory for 2026-2027. Estimated Cost: Rs. 13,78,213.65/-. EMD: Rs. 26,600/-. Completion Period: 2 Years. Date of Closing of Tenders: 24.03.2026 at 10:30 Hrs.

The above Tender details can be viewed on our website www.rwfindianrailways.gov.in

Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/AM

TELANGANA POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LIMITED
VIDYUT SOUDHA :: HYDERABAD – 82.

T.No.e-58/CEG/SEG-III/E6A16/Sulphuric Acid/TGGENCO/2026-27

Procurement of 5710MT Sulphuric Acid (as per IS:266-2024) for various Thermal Power Stations of TGGENCO. Value of the works: **Rs. 11,27,72,500/-** Scheduled Open & Closing Date: **20.02.2026 at 18:00 Hrs 23.03.2026 at 12:00 Hrs.**

T.No.e-31/CE/Civil/Thermal/TGGENCO /2025-26

YTPS – Providing HDPE lining in the Ash Pond-2 area at (5x800 MW) Yadadri Thermal Power Station, Veerlapalem (V), Dameracherla (Mdl), Nalagonda Dist. Value of the works: **Rs.7,22,07,490/-** Scheduled Open & Closing Date: **24.02.2026 at 17:00 Hrs, & 11.03.2026 at 17:00 Hrs.**

T.No.e-55/CEG/SEG-III/EBA15/TGGENCO/2025-26

YTPS -- Manufacture, Testing and Supply of FR grade NYLON/NYLON, (Qty: 150meters) and Steel cord conveyor belt (Qty:1200meters) required for coal Handling plant at Yadadri Thermal Power Station, Stage-I Veerlapalem (V), Dameracherla (Mdl), Nalagonda Dist.Value of the works: **Rs.2,18,85,450/-.** Scheduled Open & Closing Date: **18.02.2026 at 18:00 Hrs. & 12.03.2026 at 12:00 Hrs.**

T.No.e-498/CE/O&M/KTPP/Stores/TGGENCO/2025-26

KTPP – Procurement of Welding accessories for regular maintenance works at Kakatiya Thermal Power Project, Stage-I, Stage-II, and CHP Circles Chelpur (V), Jayashankar Bhoopalapally Dist. For the Year 2025-26 Value of the works: **Rs.32,02,290/-** Scheduled Open & Closing Date: **20.02.2026 at 17:30 Hrs 26.03.2026 at 16:00 Hrs.**

T.No.e-606/CE/O&M/KTPP/BMD- I/TGGENCO/2025-26

KTPP – Procurement of Steel wire Rope for Skyman make OCTO-800A sky climber for boiler at Kakatiya Thermal Power Project, Chelpur (V), Jayashankar Bhoopalapally Dist. Value of the works: **Rs.15,05,166/-** Scheduled Open & Closing Date: **21.02.2026 at 10:30 Hrs 13.03.2026 at 10:30 Hrs.**

For further Details: www.tggenco.com & www.tender.telangana.gov.in

DIPR R.O.No.1234-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2025-26 Dt: 04-03-2026

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA,
Zilla Panchayath, Vijayanagara,
Office of Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Division, Hospet Vijayanagara District.

No:EE/RDWS&SD/HPT/MVS O&ME-Proc Tender/TS:2025-26/ Dated:27-02-2026

E-procurement tender postponement announcement. (KTPP Act-2000)

Reference: 1. This office e-procurement tender notice number: 09/ 2025-26/1156 dated: 26-02-2026. The tender called for e-tender through the referred notice has been postponed due to various reasons. Government of Karnataka

On behalf of the Governor, the Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Division, Hospet, has invited Item-wise tenders from eligible contractors registered with the Public Works Department and registered in e-Procurement for the works worth Rs 205.16 lakh 02 in Hosapete Taluk and Rs.3,11.33 lakh 04 in Huvinahadagali Taluk under the MVS O&M Scheme for the year 2025-26, through e-Procurement under the Karnataka Transparency Act 1999 Rules 2000. For more information, the blank tender document can be viewed on the website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Sl No	Discription	Previously scheduled date	Now postponed date
1	Last date for submission of tenders	08-03-2026 5.00 PM	15-03-2026 5.00 PM
2	E-Procurement Tender Technical Bid Opening Date	09-03-2026 After 5.05 PM	17-03-2026 After 5.05 PM
3	E-Procurement Tender Financial Bid Opening Date	12-03-2026 11.00 AM	20-03-2026 After11.00 AM
4	Preliminary meeting date	-	18-03-2026 After11.00 AM

Apart from these there will be no further changes to the original tender.

DIPR/Vijayanagar/2025-26/KSMCA/RO No/568

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
RDW & S Division, Hospet.

CHENNAI METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

NOTICE INVITING TENDER THROUGH E-TENDER
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

Date:	03 March 2026
Loan No. and Title:	Loan No:P56811-001 IND/Chennai Climate resilient Water Security and Sewerage Project (CCRWSSP) and E-Procurement Notice CNT/UGSS/NCE/ADB/004/2025-26
Contract No. and Title:	Improvement to Existing sewerage system under Nesapakkam STP catchment area – SW-03 - Rehabilitation and enlargement of existing collection system with HSCs under 7 Nos of LS/SPS in Area 9 & 10 and Operation & maintenance of entire collection system for 5 years.
Deadline for Submission of Bids:	08/04/2026 Up to 15.00 Hours

1. The Government of Tamil Nadu through Government of India has applied for financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of Chennai Climate Resilient Water Security and Sewerage Project (CC-RWSSP). Part of this financing will be used for payments under the Contract named above. Bidding is open to bidders from eligible source countries of ADB.
2. The Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board ("the Employer") invites E-bids from eligible Bidders.
3. The Scope of Work: Improvement to existing sewerage system under Nesapakkam STP catchment area – SW-03 - Rehabilitation and enlargement of existing collection system with HSCs under 7 Nos of LS/SPS in Area 9 & 10 and Operation & maintenance of entire collection system for 5 years. Including other works with in the contract scope. ("the Works"). Supplying, laying, testing and commissioning of 59.426 km of DWC/CI/HDPE gravity mains of sizes varying from 200mm dia to 700mm dia by Pipe bursting, Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) and open cut method of laying. Construction and up gradation of 1000 Nos of precast and cast in situ machine holes and Providing 7923 Nos of house sewer connections (HSCs) with 110mm and 160mm dia MDPE pipes. Operation and maintenance of entire collection system for a period of 5 years.
4. Open competitive bidding – National advertisement will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single-Stage: Two-Envelope bidding procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document.
5. Only eligible Bidders with the following key qualifications defined in the Bidding Document may participate in this bidding:
   - Technical criteria specified is for at least one contract that has been satisfactorily completed within the last five years (2020-2021 to 2024-2025).

S No.	Qualification Criteria	Details
1.	Supply, laying and commissioning of gravity sewer mains of dia minimum of 355mm of HDPE/DWC/CI/RCC for a minimum length, successfully completed in one single contract.	20 km
2.	Supply, laying and commissioning of gravity sewer mains of dia minimum of 200mm of HDPE/DWC/CI/RCC for a minimum length, successfully completed using Trenchless Technology by pipe bursting / HDD in one single contract.	8.40 km
3.	Operation & Maintenance of Sewerage Network system for a period of at least one year	1 project

   - Financial criteria specified are to be achieved within the last 5 years (2020–2021 to 2024–2025) (Rs. in Crores)

S No.	Qualification Criteria	Details (Rs. in Crores)
4.	Achieved minimum annual construction turnover calculated as total certified payments received for contracts in progress or completed.	39.30
	For Joint Venture (maximum three partners), for all partners combined (must meet the requirement)	59.30
	For any one partner	44.65
	For each partner	22.32
5.	One Sewerage network construction with the component of the proposed works of the value of not less than	33.67

   - Details of bid security and dates of Pre-bid meeting, bids closing date and bid opening dates

NIT No.	Name of work	E Bid Security (INR)	Pre bid meeting Date	E Bid Submission closing Date	E Bid Opening Date
1	Improvement to existing sewerage system under Nesapakkam STP catchment area – SW-03 - Rehabilitation and enlargement of existing collection system with HSCs under 7 Nos of LS/SPS in Area 9 & 10 and Operation & maintenance of entire collection system for 5 years	1.34 Cr	12/03/2026 at 11.00 Hours	08/04/2026 Upto 15.00 Hours	08/04/2026 15.30 Hours

Note: Only E-Bid security is accepted.

More details of qualification requirements are mentioned in the Bidding Documents.

6. To obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents, Bidders should contact:
   SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (CONTRACT & MONITORING)
   CHENNAI METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD,
   No.1, Pumping Station Road, Chintadripet, Chennai-02
   Telephone: +91 44 28451300 Extn:254
   E-mail: secandm@gmail.com
7. To purchase the bidding documents in English, eligible Bidders should:
   - Refer to https://tntenders.gov.in (e-procurement portal of the Employer). The Bidding Documents will be available online on the website at www.tntenders.gov.in until before the deadline of bid submission.
8. Deliver your bid
   - Online at https://tntenders.gov.in on or before the deadline date specified at 15:00 hours (IST) together with a E-Bid Security as described in the Bidding Document.
   - Details of submission and opening of bids are as detailed above.
   Bids will be opened promptly after the deadline for bid submission in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
9. The Employer/Purchaser will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by Bidders in connection with the preparation or submission/delivery of bids.

DIPR/1560/TENDER/2026

CE(O&M)/SE(C&M)/In (Contracts &Monitoring)

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, PALI

ENVIRONMENT AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT CELL

Sr.no. -MCP/Env. & SWM/NIT 08 /Super Sucker /2025-26/574-77 Date:- 26.02.2026

Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)

Online Proposal are invited on behalf of Municipal Corporation Pali from the reputed, experience and technically eligible Contractor firm for the work of **"Supply and delivery of 01 nos Super Sucker machine (With two Dump Tank) with comprehensive operation and maintenance of Period for Five years"** the further detailed regarding to bid Documents can be downloaded from the e-tendering portal **https://eproc.Rajasthan.gov.in** And **https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** Estimate cost of work are 363.00 lakhs.

NIB Code:- DLB2526B2276
UBN:- DLB2526GLRC36420

Raj.Samwad/C/25/21671

Commissioner
Municipal Corporation Pali

HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA, BENGALURU-01

No. HCC/HCRB-18/2022 Date: 04.03.2026
E-Comp.No.12
File No. HCKBLR-HCC/2/2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The High Court of Karnataka invites tender for Hiring/ Availing the services of Manpower to be deployed in the High Court of Karnataka through outsourcing agency of Manpower Human Resources through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal of Centre for e-Governance, Bengaluru. The last date to upload the tender s fixed on **18.03.2026 at 4:00 p.m.** For more details visit **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/searchTenderInfo** website.

Sd/-
Registrar (Computers) and
Tender Inviting And Accepting
Authority, High Court of Karnataka,
Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/2697/MAA/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
ZILLA PANCHAYATH, BELLARY

Office of the Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division, Bellary.

No. EE/PRED/BLY/AE-1/Various Heads/2025-26/2057
Dt. 03-03-2026.

Short Tender Notification (Through KPPP Portal only)

On behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka tenders are invited from the eligible contractors who have enrolled in Panchayath Raj Engineering Department for 16 works comprising of approved Road, Bridge and Building works under 2025-26 CMIDP Works, 2024-25 KKRDB and 2019-20 PMAGY through KPPP portal.

Indent No.
1.RDPR/2025-26/IND13618
2.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT22289/CALL-3
3.RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT25325

Contractors are required to submit the tender before 10-03-2026 at 4.30 PM by uploading the relevant documents through KPPP portal website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in by downloading the formats for submission of tenders from 03-03-2026 to 10-03-2026 at 4.30 PM. Tenders will be opened through KPPP portal on 11-03-2026 at 5.30 PM. Any changes in the notification will be published KPPP website only. Accepting/rejection of tenders without assigning reason is reserved. Any details can be obtained in person at the office or through telephone No. 08392-266173.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division Ballari
DIPR/Ballari/1082/KSMCA/2025-26

TAMILNADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

Chennai-600032

Tender Notice No: TI/TNPCB/F.15722/TNSHORE-FTB/2025-1 Dated: 03.03.2026

E-tender (2-cover system) through TN etenders' website are invited for **"Collection, Removal and Transportation of floating debris/solid waste from the Floating Trash Boom installed in the Adyar River in Chennai district, TamilNadu"**

The tender documents can be downloaded from **https://tntenders.gov.in** and **www.tnpcb.gov.in** on or after **05.03.2026.** The last date for the receipt of the tender is **20.03.2026.**

Chairperson
Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai - 32

DIPR/1571/TENDER/2026

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING
(Training wing)
Alandur Road Guindy, Chennai-600032.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Rc. No. 3602/ATB3/2024-1, Dated : 04.03.2026

Online Tenders in two cover system are invited from the industries (either as a single entity or a part of a Consortium) for Request for Proposa (RFP) for the selection of Anchor Industry Partners for 8 Hubs and 24 Spokes in 8 clusters under Upgradation of Industrial Training Institutes under Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs (PM-SETU) Scheme in Tamil Nadu."

The Bidder can however, choose to bid for multiple clusters, however separate bid documents have to be submitted for each cluster comprising of 1 hub and 4 spokes.

For further details, Terms & Conditions please visit Tamil Nadu e-tendering portal **https://tntenders.gov.in.** Tender Document can be downloaded from the web portal at free of cost from the date mentioned below.

1.	Tender Inviting Authority	Additional Director (AT), Deputy Director of Employment and Training, Guindy, Chennai -32
2.	EMD	Rs. 40.00 Lakh
3.	Conditions	As stipulated in RFP document
4.	Sale of RFP Document	05.03.2026 - available online (https://tntenders.gov.in.)
5.	Last date of receipt of RFP Document	05.03.2026 at 11 A.M
6.	Date, Time and Place of Opening the RFP	05.03.2026 at 4.00 P.M in the Directorate of Employment and Training, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032.
7.	Pre-bid meeting	22.03.2026 at 11.30 A.M in Conference Hall (2nd floor), Directorate of Employment and Training, Guindy, Chennai 32

DIPR/1569/TENDER/2025

Additional Director(AT)/Tender Inviting Authority

Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department
ARULMIGU KAPALEESHWARAR TEMPLE

Mylapore, Chennai - 600 004.

e-Tender Notice – Two Cover System
e-Tender Notice No: 10 / 2025-26, Dated : 03.03.2026.

e-Tenders are invited by the Joint Commissioner/Executive Officer, Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Temple, Mylapore, Chennai – 600 004 for the following works. The e-tender documents can be downloaded from the website https://tntenders.gov.in from 05.03.2026 upto 16.03.2026 until 5.45p.m at free of cost. The filled e-Tenders will be received up to 17.03.2026 until 3.00 p.m. All received e-tenders will be opened on 17.03.2026 at 4.00 p.m. The EMD amount should be remitted through online only from any Nationalised bank in the name of Arulmigu Kapaleeshwarar Temple

All relevant documents should be uploaded in PDF format only. All e-tender documents, further notifications, corrigendum will be published through website https://tntenders.gov.in only and not in newspaper.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Tender value Rs.	EMD Amount Rs.	Period of work	Contractor eligibility
1.	Construction of Arulmigu Kabaleeswarar Arts and Science college Phase - 2 Belongs to Arulmigu Kabaleeswarar Temple, Mylapore, Chennai - 04	26,30,17,735/-	13,25,089/-	18 months	Registered, live, class of qualified contractors of Tamil Nadu Government Departments / State Government undertakings with required experience

P.K.Kavenitha, B.A.B.L, M.H.R.M.
Joint Commissioner/Executive Officer

P.Vijayakumar Reddy
Chairman Board of Trustees

Board of Trustees –
K.Ranjini Manian, P.Thirunavukkarasu, M.P.Maruthamuthu, C.T.Arumugam

DIPR / 1531 / Tender / 2026

A thought for today

Praise, like gold and diamonds, owes its value only to its scarcity

SAMUEL JOHNSON

Golden Dome

Gold wasn't always the go-to option in times of crisis. That changed thanks to an American prez 55 yrs back

Egyptians buried their boy king Tut 3,349 years ago. If he walked out of his tomb today, he'd be worth $20mn at least. Not bad for a born-again teenager. Tut's wealth would lie entirely in the 120-odd kilos of gold he was buried with. But if you were Tut, would you want to be resurrected today, or late this year when analysts expect gold to touch $6,000, or even $6,300, from around $5,250 now? Four years ago, when Russia invaded Ukraine, gold had nudged $2,000 – a record. On Monday, it moved up 5% in a day after Op Epic Fury. Another big war next year could push it to $7,000, or more. Who knows? Gold's skittishness in the face of war and economic crises puts Tut in a real to-be-or-not-to-be quandary.

But it wasn't always so. Until Aug 1971, Tut could have returned anytime without a cost-benefit analysis. If he was scientifically minded, he should have chosen 1717 to meet Newton who, as Master of the Royal Mint, set gold's price at just under £4 per ounce. What's with mathematicians and gold? Remember, eureka-eureka Archimedes figured out the density test for gold's purity. Newton also invented the reeded edge of coins to prevent tampering. Anyway, the price he set for gold became gospel for the next 200 years. No war ever made it cheaper or dearer. Even when Napoleon overran Europe, gold demonstrated the law of inertia.

In WW2, US finally reset gold's price to $35 per ounce, not so subtly telling Brits who was boss. But it wasn't until Nixon refused to swap other countries' dollars for gold in 1971 that gold got a life of its own. It was at $193 before 1979's Iran revolution, and at $615 a year later. Why? Because in gold we trust. Money unmoored from gold is paper. Germans under Hitler, Venezuelans, and now Iranians have experienced this. So, when stocks and crypto look shaky, the safety of gold beckons. In fact, high gold prices are the most eloquent sign of global fear. Newton found that gold-to-silver price ratio in 18th century India was 12 to 1, as against 15 to 1 in Britain. Now, it's crossed 60 to 1. Similarly, gold's relationship with oil is also broken. Between 1970 and 2018, it exceeded 30 to 1 only about 2% of the time. Before the war, it had risen to almost 90 to 1, and now, after oil's rise, it's at 65 to 1. But this won't last. Gold will race ahead. Tut had better wait for the next big war.

War Naming

Op Sindoor, Op Epic Fury...military operations' names are meant to send big messages

What's in a military operation name? Quite a bit, actually. Despite being coordinated between America's Pentagon and Israel's Kirya, Washington and Tel Aviv have decided to use two separate op names for their Iran campaign – Op Epic Fury and Op Roaring Lion respectively. Why two names? It's all about political messaging. Having rechristened US's department of defence as department of war, Washington clearly wants to signal overwhelming power – something that feeds into the narrative of US being No.1. Israel, meanwhile, is tapping into the Judeo-Persian motif of the lion, signalling solidarity with old Persia against the Islamic Republic.

All of these may seem like little mind games. But in the age of informationised warfare, messaging is as important as cutting-edge drones. So, Op Midnight Hammer signalled a literal battering of Iran's nuclear infra by US forces last year. But this exercise isn't exactly new. It all started with WWI and gained prominence in WWII, when Germany under Hitler drew on historical and mythological figures to message German superiority. Hence, Op Barbarossa – after Holy Roman Emperor Frederick I – for the German invasion of Soviet Union.

US military began with colour-coded names such as Op Indigo – plan to prevent Nazis from seizing Iceland – but later switched to a computerised naming system after Vietnam. However, big ops get two-word names that are cleared by secretary of defence, like Op Enduring Freedom for Afghanistan and Op Odyssey Dawn for Libya. One exception: UK's op to retake the Falklands in 1982 was dubbed a very blah Op Corporate – said to be the next available name on a Whitehall list. Closer home, we had India's Op Cactus to thwart the attempted coup in Maldives in 1988. If Op Parakram after the 2001 Parliament attack served as a warning for Pakistan, Op Sindoor last year ensured justice for those widowed by the Pahalgam terror attack. So, expect war names to get more creative, and political.

Telangana trailblazers

Once defeated candidates reclaim campaign gifts...

Anupam Manur

Indian democracy has finally matured and now comes with a refund policy. Across parts of Telangana, defeated candidates in the municipal elections reportedly visited voters to reclaim campaign cash and gifts, unless the voters could prove that they exercised their constitutional right in favour of the gift-bearing political Santa.

While some may bemoan this as democratic slide, as an economist, I see market correction! For decades, the relationship between candidate and voter resembled festive gifting: pressure cookers, mixers, saris, and envelopes of goodwill given with vague obligations of reciprocity at the polling booth.

Upfront payment, unverifiable performance, and non-existent enforcement, democracy had its flaws. From these shadowy, underground markets, we have finally evolved to a transactional era of post-purchase accountability. Operational questions persist though – if 3 out of 4 people in the family voted for the candidate, can they keep the vessel and return only the lid and the whistle? Can there be loyalty schemes – vote thrice and get a scooty?

More importantly, similar consumer rights must be bestowed upon voters. They must be entitled to warranties, guarantees, and after-sales service. It is only fair. Democracy cannot operate on a one-sided refund policy. Can every elected representative come with a 12-month no-questions-asked return window? If the performance is unsatisfactory, like too much noise, failure to switch on in assemblies, unexplained disappearance during crucial sessions, voters may initiate a replacement.

Political parties must be forced to provide a warranty against manufacturing defects in their ticketed candidates. Common faults include ideological leakage, sudden policy reversals, chronic absenteeism and that pervasive, yet mysterious condition called development delays (despite repeated announcements).

Similarly, campaign promises must be treated as advertised product features. Under the new system, unfortunately for the candidates, promises of pothole-free roads, reliable supply of water and power, and corruption-free governance cannot be later classified as "illustrative images only". Misleading advertising is actionable under standard consumer law.

The trailblazers in Telangana may have done more than just recover a few pressure cookers. They have unwittingly elevated democracy onto a higher plane of transparency and accountability with a clear performance contract – deliver or be returned!

Does Trump Want A New 'Gaza'?

What will US do if Iranian regime keeps holding out, if sustained bombing starts producing terrible images of ordinary Iranians' suffering, if no credible interlocutor is found to start mediation?

Syed Ata Hasnain

Retd Lt General

As the conflict between US, Israel and Iran stretches into its second week, one uncomfortable truth becomes increasingly visible: this is not a single strike episode, but the opening phase of a sustained military campaign. What began as calibrated coercion has evolved into a structured effort to alter strategic behaviour. The question is no longer whether force has been demonstrated. It is whether force can achieve the political end-state that Washington seeks.

Watching the impact on Iranian cities evokes a sense of regret among many, which must not be dismissed. Urban bombardment, however precise in intent, carries human cost. If sustained at present intensity, parts of Tehran and other centres risk the kind of infrastructural degradation witnessed elsewhere in recent conflicts – power grids strained, hospitals pressured, water and transport systems disrupted.

A prolonged campaign could edge dangerously close to what many would describe as a "new Gaza" scenario. Such an outcome would generate not only regional instability but global anguish.

Tehran: Toys of children killed by a missile strike

What is US's aim? | In my assessment, it is layered. At the minimum, Washington seeks to degrade Iran's missile and nuclear capability sufficiently to constrain Tehran's strategic behaviour and remove what Israel perceives as an existential threat. Beyond that lies weakening the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), which is the institutional backbone of Iranian power projection.

But while full regime change may be desirable in theory, it is not easily achieved without occupation or internal collapse. Political transformation from the air remains historically elusive.

What has it achieved thus far? | Tactically, the US-Israel campaign has delivered results. Leadership decapitation has disrupted command coherence. Air superiority appears established. Intelligence penetration has been demonstrated at remarkable depth. Iran's military infra has been degraded.

Yet degradation is not destruction, and disruption is not defeat. IRGC remains present, missile assets remain functional, and succession mechanisms remain available.

The harder question is whether sustained air power can compel behavioural change. On this, military history suggests caution. Air campaigns can impose enormous cost, paralyse logistics, and erode morale. They can eliminate leadership figures. But they rarely dismantle ideological systems embedded within society.

Iraq required ground occupation to effect regime change. Libya descended into fragmentation without producing stability. So, the assumption that systematic bombing alone can produce strategic capitulation is uncertain at best.

Two extreme possibilities frame the debate. One is rapid IRGC capitulation under sustained pressure, echoing the collapse of Saddam Hussein's forces in 2003. The other is prolonged resistance fuelled by a Shia ethos of endurance and sacrifice, transforming the confrontation into a drawn-out struggle of attrition. Reality will likely lie between these poles.

Iran is a nation of nearly 90mn people with a strong civilisational identity. If the public perceives the assault as external aggression rather than liberation, national cohesion may override domestic dissent, at least temporarily.

TEHRAN TURMOIL

The absence of credible interlocutors complicates matters. Diplomacy requires channels. At present, escalation appears to be moving faster than mediation.

Could escalation go further? | In theory, overwhelming demonstration strategies exist within military logic. In practice, any move towards nuclear signalling – even rhetorical – would carry catastrophic consequences. The Hiroshima precedent belongs to a different strategic era. Nuclear use today would shatter global norms, fracture alliances, and risk uncontrollable escalation.

The more immediate concern lies in cumulative degradation. Sustained precision strikes inevitably weaken civilian systems over time, even when military targets are prioritised. The longer the campaign continues, the more difficult it becomes to separate military impact from humanitarian fallout. International opinion is not static; it shifts as urban suffering becomes visible.

Energy remains the silent undercurrent of this war | Hydrocarbon flows concentrated in a narrow geography give the region disproportionate influence over global stability. Disruption of shipping lanes or insurance spikes or symbolic strikes on maritime assets would reverberate across supply chains and inflation metrics worldwide. No major power benefits from prolonged instability in energy corridors.

Implications for India | These could extend even beyond diaspora and oil. West Asia sits astride India's extended maritime neighbourhood. Sea-lane security in Arabian Sea and beyond is critical to trade. Any widening conflict will require heightened naval vigilance and contingency evacuation planning.

India's defence partnerships – across US, Israel and Gulf states – place it in a delicate diplomatic position. Strategic autonomy becomes more complex when competing powers are directly engaged. Moreover, prolonged regional instability affects investment flows, currency stability, and India's broader growth trajectory.

There is also a larger strategic consideration. If regime change through air power becomes perceived as a viable template, it alters global security norms. Other theatres – Ukraine, Taiwan, South China Sea – will draw lessons from West Asia. The threshold between coercion and annihilation narrows when decisive strikes are normalised.

War is easier to initiate than to conclude | Strategic objectives often begin clearly – degrade, deter, transform. But means and consequences evolve under fire. Momentum can create overconfidence. Precision does not guarantee permanence. Leadership decapitation is a tool, not an outcome.

The coming weeks will determine whether this remains a campaign of calibrated degradation or drifts into open-ended attrition. Much depends on interceptor endurance, Iranian retaliation thresholds, and the political clarity of Washington's end-state.

Strategic restraint, coupled with defined political objectives and viable diplomatic 'off-ramps', remains the only way to prevent tactical success from hardening into strategic stalemate. West Asia now stands at a point where military capability has been demonstrated beyond doubt. The question is whether it will be matched by political prudence.

The writer is a former commander of the Srinagar-based Chinar Corps

What's The Iran War Lesson For Middle Powers?

The obvious one is that some of them should have nuclear weapons, to prevent being attacked. But that's not enough. India has nukes but not technological sovereignty. Getting that is the best insurance against aggression

TK Arun

What lesson would a middle power draw from the Israel-led American assault on Iran? To be immune to arbitrary attacks by more powerful nations, a country needs nuclear weapons and the means to deliver them – like North Korea. In a world in which previous certainties, such as a US nuclear umbrella for presumed allies, lie shattered, no country seeking true autonomy can make do without nuclear capability of its own.

Nor is it enough to have nuclear capability. In order to guard against transgressions that fall short of devastation, a nation needs significant conventional firepower as well. Trump instigated the commitment by America's Nato allies in Europe to raise annual defence spending to 3.5% of GDP, and spend another 1.5% of GDP on fortifying security-related logistics and infra.

This, he did in two ways. One, by refusing to continue funding European defence, even as Europe spent its own fiscal resources on domestic welfare. The other lever for exerting pressure on countries to raise expenditure on defence is the death of Pax Americana. The rules-based world order, such as it was, lies trampled into the dust by Trump's vigorous embrace first, of American isolationism, and then, of American unilateralism.

It has become commonplace for commentators to quote the Greek historian Thucydides to describe America's new policy orientation: "The strong do what they can, the weak suffer what they must." The context might be familiar to a Western audience trained, in the not-too-distant past, to study Thucydides' *History of the Peloponnesian War*, as a matter of routine, but not to most of us.

The Peloponnesian War lasted 27 years, from 431 BC to 404 BC. The term Peloponnese derives from Pelopos, meaning of Pelops (Pelops was a Greek god), and nesos, meaning island. Peloponnese, however, was a peninsula, comprising cities like Sparta and Olympia, among others, between the Ionic and Aegean Seas. The Peloponnesian League was led by Sparta, which challenged the Athenian empire. The island of Melos refused to take sides between the two warring sides. In 416 BC, Athens decided to put an end to the so-called neutrality of this tiny uppity island and sent a naval fleet to conquer and annex it.

Before attacking, Athenians sent envoys to negotiate with the magistrates of Melos. Their discussion is captured by Thucydides as the Melian dialogue, in the course of which Athenians articulate the view that might is right. Melians stood on the side of justice and honour. They argued that it was unjust to attack a neutral state that posed no threat to Athens, and that the Gods would come to defend justice, or that the Spartans, with whom Melians shared kinship, would come to their aid. Melians stood in principled defiance.

Image: AI

TEHRAN TURMOIL

Gods did not come to help Melos, nor did the Spartans. Athenian forces laid siege, starved the Melians to surrender, killed all adult men, sold women and children into slavery, and repopulated the island with their own people.

On the contemporary horizon as well, no gods are visible to protect justice. Honour and principle flow from the eloquent lips of the UN secretary-general. Those on the wrong side of the power differential between nations get killed like fleas.

India must build real strength, if it wants to protect its strategic autonomy. Strength today lies in technological sovereignty, spanning all advanced tech spanning computing, electronics, robotics, energy, new materials, synthetic biology, aviation, financial technology, communications, and converting technology into manufacturing excellence.

The Australian Strategic Policy Institute now tracks 74 critical technologies that shape strategic capacity. China leads in 66 and US in the remaining eight. India counts among the top five nations in just five technologies, despite having one of the largest pools of graduates in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. This should not come as a surprise, as India spends just 0.65% of GDP on R&D, compared to 3% of GDP or more for China and US, and 5% of GDP or more for Korea and Israel.

No Indian company spends more than 6% of turnover on R&D, and that figure is for HAL. Our captains of industry strut on the global stage like peacocks, but their technological ambitions fly no higher than an ostrich does.

India's R&D hope lies with a new breed of startups doing deep technological research, not with the big industrial houses. They must be given technological challenges to solve, and liberal funding. The *sarkari* plan to give loans to carry out R&D will fly like an emu, if not the ostrich. Startups need venture funds, and the Indian public would be happy to fund them.

Indian investors pile into a limited universe of listed companies, raising their valuations to Palantir levels of folly. Give them a chance to invest in venture funds run by professionals with a track record to match their vision.

India has the talent, it slaves away in Global Capability Centres, constituting a brain drain at home. If policy does not figure out how to deploy Indian talent in Indian capability centres, Indians will learn the meaning of the Melian dialogue the hard way.

Calvin & Hobbes

CAN WE BURN THESE LEAVES?
NO, THAT POLLUTES.
BUT HOW CAN WE APPEASE THE MIGHTY SNOW DEMONS IF WE DON'T SACRIFICE ANY LEAVES?! WE'LL HAVE A WARM WINTER!
I DON'T KNOW WHETHER YOUR GRASP OF THEOLOGY OR METEOROLOGY IS THE MORE APPALLING.
I GUESS I'LL GO LIGHT SOME CANDLES AROUND THE TOBOGGAN AND BEG FOR MERCY.

Sacred*space*

The moon had been observing the earth close-up longer than anyone. It must have witnessed all of phenomena occurring...on earth. But the moon remained silent; it told no stories. All it did was embrace the heavy past with a cool, measured detachment.

Haruki Murakami

Fire, Colours, And Moon: Lessons From Holi

Radhanath Swami

Every festival carries a quiet power to shape our inner world. Beyond rituals and celebrations, festivals invite us to pause, reflect, and realign our lives with deeper values. Holi, celebrated with fire, colours, and glow of the full moon, is one such occasion. Beneath its outward joy lie timeless lessons about devotion, positivity, and shelter from life's turbulence.

Holi begins with fire and reminds us of Prahlad's unwavering devotion. This five-year-old boy remained fearless and untouched despite repeated attempts on his life by his father, Hiranyakashipu. This teaches a profound truth: obstacles cannot overpower genuine devotion. No matter how strong or threatening they appear, they eventually lose their force when faced with unwavering determination. Gita also speaks of one-pointed resolve, urging us to remain steady and focused. When devotion becomes the centre of one's life, it burns away fear, negativity, and inner weakness, just like fire reduces everything to ashes.

After the fire comes colour. Holi is traditionally celebrated by joyfully applying colours on one another, welcoming the arrival of spring. On a deeper level, these colours remind us of what our lives often lack. Our minds turn dull when we refuse to think positively. Our hearts feel worn out when they stop aspiring for something higher. Our words lose warmth when they revolve only around the shortcomings and faults of others. What is life if it lacks colour?

THE SPEAKING TREE

Holi is celebrated on the full moon day of Phalgun Purnima. The full moon has always symbolised coolness, calm, and shelter. It soothes and illuminates without burning. Interestingly, this very day also marks the appearance of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, who appeared around 500 years ago during a lunar eclipse in eastern India. As tradition describes, when he appeared, all people spontaneously filled the streets with the chanting of God's holy names.

Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's life and message were simple and inclusive. He came to encourage the chanting of God's name, offering spiritual shelter to everyone, regardless of background or qualifications. Just as the moon provides relief from the heat of the sun, his teachings offered shade from the burning anxieties of material life. Through the practice of chanting God's names, he offered calmness to restless minds and shelter to hearts torn down by confusion and distress.

Unlike ordinary sounds, chanting of the divine name carries a unique power. It has the power to pause the restless mind and gradually cleanse the heart of its accumulated misgivings.

Holi, therefore, brings together three powerful symbols. Fire teaches determination and purity of purpose. Colours remind us to live positively and contribute generously by adding value to others' lives. The full moon reflects Chaitanya's compassion that soothes hearts and shelters us. When these lessons are brought to life, Holi becomes more than a festival.

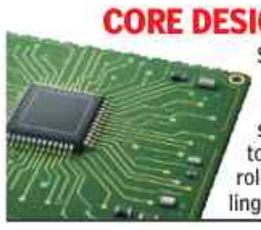
May this Holi inspire us to cultivate fire-like determination, add meaningful colours to our thoughts, words and actions, and seek the soothing shelter that uplifts and heals from within.

The author is the spiritual guru, ISKCON

TIMES BUSINESS

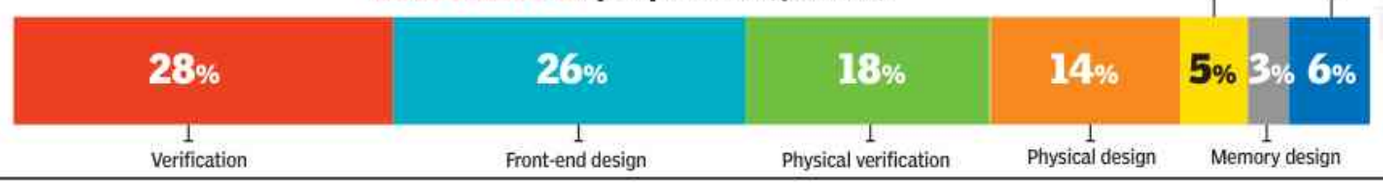
THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2026

CORE DESIGN ROLES LEAD HIRING



Semiconductor hiring regained momentum in Q4 2025, driven by core chip design roles. Core VLSI (Very large scale integration) and software positions together accounted for over **80%** of open roles across top semiconductor GCCs, signalling where demand is consolidating.

Roles & share of open positions (Q4 CY2025)



- Core VLSI led hiring with **44%** share in Q4; system & application software close behind at **40%**
- Business operations & IT roles formed the remaining **16%**

* Include design for testability, CAD engineer and analog and mixed signal (AMS) design

Source: Careernet

Indian Currency Slides As Yellow Metal Surges Amid Multi-Pronged Attacks

Re buckles under West Asia strife, breaches 92/$ first time

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The rupee dropped to a new low of 92.30 in the foreign exchange market as the conflict in the West Asia risks damaging the economy on multiple fronts. The domestic unit breached the 92 level for the first time at the opening and hit a record low before recovering on suspected RBI intervention to close at 92.15.

The rupee has depreciated 2.50% so far in 2026. It has weakened from 89.85 at the end of 2025 to 92.15 currently. The sharpest annual depreciation in the last decade occurred in 2022, when the rupee fell 10.15% following pressure on trade in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The currency had fallen 5.22% in the first six months of the Ukraine war, from 75.65 to 79.82.

Economists said that the current conflict in the West Asia could have a much bigger impact than the Russia-Ukraine war, which pushed up energy costs worldwide. Besides pushing up oil and gas prices, the conflict has choked a large chunk of India's exports to the West Asia. More than a third of India's worker remittances come from the West Asia region.

While the rupee's depreciation has lagged behind the Korean won, it is more or less aligned with the broader regional decline.

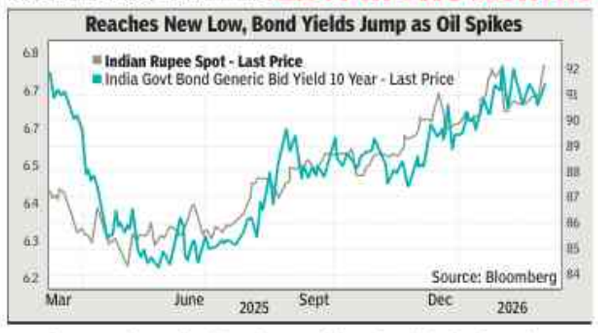
"Given that the rupee was already relatively weak on a REER basis, a disproportionate depreciation versus peer currencies appears unlikely. Much of the current weakness reflects markets pricing in a high probability of further geopolitical escalation; therefore, if tensions fail to intensify, crude prices could ease and the rupee could regain strength," said Abhishek Bisen, head of fixed income, Kotak Mahindra AMC.

During the term of current RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra (14 months so far, from December 12, 2024, to the present), the Indian rupee has depreciated by 7.94% against the US dollar, from 84.83 to 92.15 on Wednesday. In comparison, during the six-year term of former RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das (December 12, 2018, to December 11, 2024), the Indian rupee depreciated by 15.07% against the US dollar.

"The currency had earlier shown some stability following the Union Budget and the recent US–India trade deal, but the renewed spike in crude prices has reversed part of those gains. If geopolitical tensions persist and oil prices remain elevated, pressure on the rupee could continue in the near term.

RUPEE HAS FALLEN 2.5% IN TWO MONTHS

Reaches New Low, Bond Yields Jump as Oil Spikes



Gold up 1.2%, analysts see further rise

Gold prices rose on Wednesday as the escalating conflict in West Asia attracted safe-haven bids, while a pause in the US dollar's rally also lent support. Spot gold was up 1.2% to $5,146.8 per ounce, after falling more than 4% on Tuesday.

US gold futures for April delivery added 0.7% to $5,158.2. "The dollar has seen a pullback, which is providing some support. Overall, the macro-fundamental factors remain broadly supportive of gold. Certainly, as long as the war with Iran is ongoing, that's going to remain supportive as well," said Peter Grant, VP and senior metals strategist at Zaner Metals.

"There is risk that volatility continues. But I remain bullish and think we will see new all-time highs." Gold, a non-yielding asset that is considered a hedge against uncertainty and inflation, tends to be preferred during periods of low interest rates. REUTERS

Tariff may be hiked to 15% this week: Bessent

US Treasury Secretary Believes Levies Will Be Back To Old Rates Within Five Months

Treasury secretary Scott Bessent said that President Donald Trump's plan to increase a 10% universal tariff up to 15% will likely be done this week. "That's likely sometime this week," Bessent said on CNBC in response to a question about when the increase to 15% would be implemented.

Trump last month put a 10% universal levy in place after the Supreme Court invalidated most of his previous tariff regime. Bessent noted the authority for the new duties only allows for the measure to last 150 days. During that time, he said that US trade authorities will be looking at using other legislation to resurrect the tariff regime that had been in place prior to the high court's ruling.

"It's my strong belief that the tariff rates will back to their old rate within five months," Bessent said. "They are very slow moving, but they are more robust," he said of the so-called sections 301 and 232 tariffs that are planned to replace the invalidated IEEPA duties.

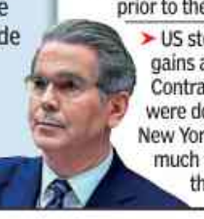
US stock futures erased gains after Bessent's comment on the higher tariff. Contracts on the S&P 500 were down about 0.1% in New York after being up as much as 0.4% earlier in the session. The Treasury chief also played down the risk to the oil market from the US and Israeli war against Iran, saying that there's ample global supply and that the Trump administration will be taking steps to support the sector.

"I would encourage everyone to look through the noise and see where we are going on the other side of this in terms of the crude markets — the crude markets are very well supplied," Bessent said. "There are hundreds of millions of barrels on the water away from the Gulf. But more importantly, we have a series of announcements that we're going to be making."

He pointed to the previously announced plan for the US government to offer insurance for oil cargo ships when appropriate, and for the US Navy to provide safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz. Bessent highlighted China's vulnerability to any cutoff of oil shipments from the Persian Gulf, saying more than 50% of their energy comes from that region. "They've probably been buying 95% of the Iranian crude. That's obviously on hold right now." Asked about Trump's comment on Tuesday suggesting a trade embargo with Spain, and whether the Treasury chief would be responsible for that, Bessent said, "It would be a combination effort." He didn't specifically comment on whether such a sanction will be enacted.

OIL'S WELL DESPITE GULF CRISIS?

> I would encourage everyone to look through the noise and see where we are going on the other side of this in terms of the crude markets—the crude markets are very well supplied
>
> **Scott Bessent** | US TREASURY SECRETARY



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EU hopes 10% levy will stay

Meanwhile, European Union expects that the US won't increase its tariff on the bloc to 15%. The EU received assurances according to people familiar with the matter, who spoke on the condition of anonymity. Spokespeople for the US Trade Representative and the European Commission, which handles trade matters for the EU, declined to comment on the matter.

Sensex tanks 1.1k pts on FPI exodus

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: As expected, on Wednesday stocks sold off for the second consecutive session since the war in West Asia started on Saturday, and sank the leading indices to over six-month low levels. With the rupee weakening to a new life low mark, crude prices hitting more than a year-high level and foreign funds selling aggressively, sensex closed 1,123 points (1.4%) lower at 79,116 points.

On the NSE, nifty lost 385 points (1.6%) to close at 24,481 points. The last time sensex was around this level was in early April 2025 while for nifty it was around early-Aug 2025. On Monday, sensex had lost 1,048 points. Together with Wednesday's four-digit points loss, the sensex is now down nearly 2,200 points or 2.7%.

According to Ajit Mishra, SVP Research, Religare Broking, during the day's session investor sentiment remained fragile amid weak global signals, elevated crude oil prices and the lingering uncertainty around geopolitical developments in West Asia. "Continued foreign institutional selling and currency volatility further dampened confidence."

In Wednesday's falling market, although domestic institutional investors pressed the buy button, to stabilise the heavy selling pressure from foreign funds, the effort was only marginally successful as India slid less than two of its Asian peers. During the day, while Nikkei in Japan closed 3.6% down and Hang Seng in Hong Kong was 2% down, Shanghai in China closed 1% lower.

At close of trading, while domestic funds were net buyers of stocks worth Rs 12,068 crore, foreign funds were net sellers at Rs 8,753 crore, data on BSE showed. In the last two sessions, foreign funds have net withdrawn funds worth a little over Rs 12,000 crore, translating to about $1.3 billion.

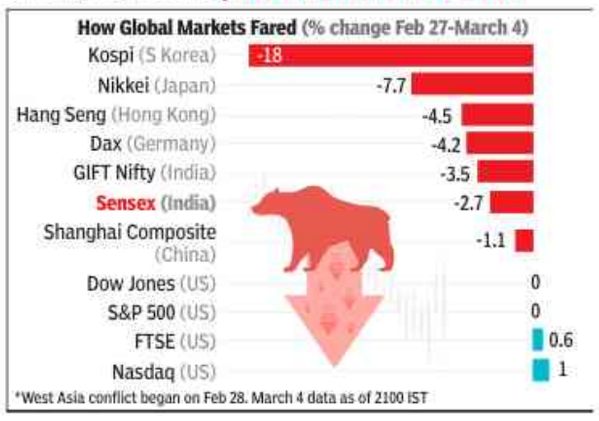
The day's sell-off also left investors poorer by Rs 9.8 lakh crore with BSE's current market capitalisation at Rs 447.2 lakh crore. Since the start of the war between the US-Israel combine and Iran, in the last two sessions total loss of wealth to investors was a little over Rs 16 lakh crore, BSE data showed.

In Wednesday's market, of the 30 sensex stocks, 27 closed in the red. Among these, Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank and L&T contributed the most to the sensex's loss for the day.

In the broader market, there were 3,295 stocks that closed lower, compared to 1,025 that closed higher, BSE data showed.

ASIA SLUMPS, KOREA WORST HIT

How Global Markets Fared (% change Feb 27-March 4)



*West Asia conflict began on Feb 28. March 4 data as of 2100 IST

Aluminium spikes as Alba halts cargos

London: Aluminium prices hit their highest in nearly four years on Wednesday after Aluminium Bahrain (Alba) stopped shipments, deepening worries about the impact of the conflict on supplies of the metal used in construction, transport and packaging.

Other industrial metals recovered from recent weakness on better-than-expected private factory data from top metals consumer China.

Benchmark three-month aluminium on the London Metal Exchange jumped as much as 5.1% to $3,418 a metric ton, its strongest since April 2022, and was up 2.6% at $3,335 a ton. Alba, which operates the world's biggest aluminium smelter outside of China, declared force majeure on Wednesday, warning some customers of delays because it could not ship through the Strait of Hormuz. REUTERS

AI helps wealthtech firms do more with leaner teams

Supriya.Roy@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Indian wealthtech platforms are increasingly embedding artificial intelligence across research tools, product development and customer interfaces as they look to personalise investing and accelerate product launches without proportionate increases in headcount.

Indian wealthtech platforms are increasingly integrating AI into core workflows, using it not just to enhance user experience but also to compress development cycles and improve internal productivity. At INDmoney, AI is being deployed across the user journey, from onboarding and portfolio insights to customer support and internal development. "AI is becoming a foundational layer for wealth-tech platforms," a company spokesperson said. The firm has introduced AI-powered tools that enable users to analyse stocks and investments quickly, alongside an AI support bot to resolve queries. It is also piloting an AI layer that generates portfolio-level insights to help investors better understand their holdings. Internally, AI is automating document validation and financial data classification across multiple asset sources, streamlining onboarding and wealth aggregation.

Meanwhile, Upstox is leveraging AI to improve engineering productivity and accelerate feature rollouts. "The AI capabilities have accelerated feature rollouts, reduced manual intervention, and improved engineering productivity through automation and contextual tooling," said Shrini Viswanath, co-founder and CTO of Upstox. As the platform scales, he added, AI will increasingly shape how products are built and operated, allowing teams to focus on higher-value problem solving.

At Groww, co-founder and CEO Lalit Keshre said AI-driven tooling has helped the company ship products faster without significantly expanding its workforce. "We launched bonds, commodities, wealth and Prime, at least seven products in the last two years. All that has happened without hiring a lot more people," he said at a recent product showcase event, noting that frequent internal demo cycles push teams to release features quickly.

The company recently introduced GR1, its proprietary AI-powered investment research assistant designed to help users analyse large volumes of financial data and generate portfolio insights. The tool aims to simplify complex information for retail investors navigating company filings, earnings reports, and market data.

Other platforms are embedding AI into internal software development processes as well. At Angel One, AI is helping product teams analyse user feedback faster and shorten development cycles. The company uses large language models during product-definition sprints to draft and refine product requirement documents, while design concepts are prototyped using tools integrated with its internal systems.

"During the product definition phase, our teams run structured fortnightly sprints where LLMs support drafting and refining PRDs (product requirements document)," said Ankit Rastogi, chief product officer at Angel One. "In the software development phase, AI improves engineering velocity through code-generation assistants that support our monthly planning and development cycles."

AI BECOMES WEALTHTECH BACKBONE

Platforms are embedding AI across research, onboarding, portfolio insights and support — making it core infrastructure, not just a feature

Faster launches, leaner teams
Groww rolled out 7 products in two years, including bonds and commodities, without significant hiring, enabled by AI-driven tools

Engineering on autopilot
Upstox leverages AI to speed up feature rollouts, reduce manual work and improve engineering productivity

Smarter investor tools
INDmoney's AI analyses stocks and portfolios
Groww's GR1 simplifies filings and earnings data

AI writes the blueprint
Angel One uses large language models to draft PRDs and assist code generation, shortening development cycles

Petronet issues force majeure, LNG supply hit

India's top gas importer Petronet LNG has issued a force majeure notice to its supplier QatarEnergy and local buyers as its vessels are unable to reach Ras Laffan load port due to the crisis in West Asia, it said in an exchange filing on Wednesday.

The US-Iran conflict has disrupted fuel shipments in the region. Transit through the Strait of Hormuz between Iran and Oman, which carries around one-fifth of oil consumed globally as well as large quantities of liquefied natural gas, has ground to a near-halt after some vessels in the area were hit.

Due to the prevailing security situation and the material risks posed to maritime navigation, Petronet has issued a Force Majeure Notice to QatarEnergy for its LNG tankers Disha, Raahi, and Aseem, it said in the notice issued late Tuesday.

Petronet has also issued force majeure to its customers GAIL (India), Indian Oil, and Bharat Petroleum.

QatarEnergy has also issued a notice to Petronet "indicating a potential event of Force Majeure due to the hostilities prevailing in the region", Petronet said.

On Wednesday, Petronet stocks dropped 9.3% to end at Rs 281 on the BSE. During the day, it tanked 11.7% to Rs 273.

Indian gas suppliers GAIL and Indian Oil Corp have already reduced gas supplies to industries including fertiliser plants. Sources familiar with the matter said lower gas supplies had already marginally hit production of some fertiliser companies including the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative and Kribhco Fertilizers.

So far the companies have not announced any cuts in gas supplies for households or the automobile sector.

India imported 27 million tonnes of LNG in 2024/25, about half of its overall gas consumption, according to the govt data. The bulk of the LNG is imported from Qatar. REUTERS

MSC to drop Gulf cargo at nearest safe ports

TROUBLED WATERS

MSC, the world's largest carrier of ocean container cargo, said on Tuesday all cargo bound for ports in the Gulf will be offloaded at the nearest safe seaport due to ongoing hostilities in West Asia following US and Israeli attacks on Iran.

The move, known as an "End of Voyage" declaration, also applies to empty containers that have been released for loading with cargo and are intended for export to the ports in the Gulf, Geneva-based MSC said in a customer advisory. A mandatory surcharge of $800 per container will apply to all affected shipments, without exception, to cover deviation costs, MSC said. "MSC sincerely regrets the necessity of this decision, which arises from exceptional circumstances beyond its control," the company said.

Customers will assume responsibility for the container at the discharge port, said Lars Jensen, CEO of container shipping-focused consultancy Vespucci Maritime, on LinkedIn. That means shippers are responsible for finding alternate transportation and paying local port fees, he said.

The hostilities have caused vessels including oil tankers and container ships to back up at the critical Strait of Hormuz chokepoint, sparking worries that global fuel prices could soar.

As of Sunday, 158 container ships were present in West Asia, including the Gulf of Oman, the Arabian Sea and the Gulf, representing just 2.1% of the current active container ship fleet, according to data from Drewry.

MSC and Ocean Network Express, known as ONE, earlier this week stopped accepting cargo bound for the affected areas in West Asia. Industry experts warned that the hostilities would trigger cascading delays

"Container shipping has less to lose from the Iran conflict compared to other shipping sectors, but it cannot escape disruption and higher costs," said Simon Heaney, Drewry's senior manager of container research, in a report on Tuesday.

Oil cos may cushion impact of spike: Report

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Govt's decision to hold back cuts in retail petrol and diesel prices despite the earlier fall in global crude has given oil marketing companies (OMCs) room to cushion the impact of fresh spikes. According to a report by Nomura, this buffer means that a 10% rise in crude oil prices is likely to translate into only a 10 basis point increase in inflation and a similar impact on GDP growth.

Theoretically, a 10% jump in global crude prices should add around 50 basis points to inflation if fully passed on to consumers—higher than the 30 basis points seen earlier. However, a full pass-through appears unlikely as OMCs are expected to absorb part of the increase through their margins. Since the US/Israel attacks on Iran, Brent crude has risen 16.8% while WTI crude has risen 14%.

Beyond prices, a rising oil import bill poses risks to India's macro stability. Typically, a 10% rise in crude widens the current account deficit by about 0.4% of GDP. Even so, the current account remains relatively well balanced and low by historical standards.

The bigger vulnerability lies in the capital account. A sharp fall in foreign investment flows amid global risk aversion has led to a sizeable balance of payments deficit. A combination of a wider current account gap and sustained foreign portfolio outflows could intensify pressure on the Indian rupee.

As a twin-deficit economy, India's equity markets are among the most vulnerable in Asia to prolonged supply disruptions. In the rates market, India and Korea are seen as the most negatively impacted. The Nomura report underlined that India's heavy dependence on imported energy leaves it exposed to geopolitical shocks in the Middle East. The country imports over 85% of its oil needs, with nearly half of its crude shipments passing through the Strait of Hormuz. In FY25, Persian Gulf nations — including Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Kuwait — accounted for nearly 46% of India's crude imports. On inflation, the report drew a distinction between theoretical sensitivity and practical pricing realities. "The RBI estimates that a 10% increase in global crude oil prices leads to around 15 basis points drop in GDP growth and 30 basis points increase in inflation, but this is based on the old inflation series, while the new one has doubled the combined weightings of petrol and diesel (to 4.8% from 2.3%), which should also raise the sensitivity of CPI inflation to oil price changes, if fully passed," it said.

However, such a pass-through is rarely immediate. "Retail prices of petrol and diesel are unofficially pegged, with OMCs absorbing the impact through their balance sheets," the report noted.

HOW RISING OIL MAY IMPACT INFLATION

- **According to Nomura,** govt's decision to hold back cuts in retail petrol, diesel prices despite the earlier fall in global crude has given OMCs room to absorb hikes
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- Typically, a 10% rise in crude

K'taka HC clears CID probe against Jar

Vasantha.kumar @timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: The Karnataka high court on Wednesday dismissed a petition filed by Bengaluru-based startup Jar Gold Retail and its director Nishchay Babu Arkalgud, clearing the way for the CID to continue its investigation.

Justice M Nagaprasanna rejected the company's plea seeking to quash a police probe into its operations following a suo motu FIR registered by the Koramangala police on Jan 16 this year under the Banning of Unregulated Deposits Schemes (BUDS) Act, 2019.

The company contended that no complaints had been filed by any of its customers. It described itself as an online micro-savings and investment platform operating through an app, and argued that it did not run a deposit scheme under the 2019 Act.

Police submitted that the investigation was initiated as the company's business was not registered with any regulatory authority, including Sebi. Rejecting the argument that the deposit was in gold and not cash, the court said: "Law is concerned not with the cosmetic garb in which a transaction is clothed, but with its intrinsic character and its economic substance."

PhonePe heads to market at haircut

Walmart To Trim Stake; Microsoft, Tiger Exit; IPO To Raise Nearly $1 Billion

Mumbai: Walmart-backed fintech firm PhonePe is aiming to list at a valuation of $9 billion to $10.5 billion, two people with direct knowledge of the matter said.

That suggests the IPO could raise about $900 million to $1.05 billion. Even at the upper end, however, the proposed valuation would be lower than the $12 billion at which PhonePe last raised $100 million in private markets in 2023. Walmart will trim its stake in PhonePe by about 12% in the IPO, while Tiger Global and Microsoft plan to exit their holdings, according to the company's filing. The three firms will sell around 50.7 million shares in the offer and PhonePe will not issue fresh shares.

PhonePe, which competes with Google Pay and Paytm in India, filed draft papers for its IPO in Sept and aims to complete the process by April, one of the sources said. The timeline could shift depending on capital market conditions, including any impact from the West Asia conflict. Both sources requested anonymity as the discussions are confidential. PhonePe, Walmart, Tiger Global and Microsoft did not immediately respond to emails seeking comment.

Reuters

VALUATION RESET: IPO pricing signals cooling fintech exuberance as marquee investors trim stakes and exits loom

PhonePe's listing would make it India's second-largest fintech IPO after Paytm's roughly $20 billion listing in 2021. Paytm currently trades at a market capitalisation of about $7.1 billion. PhonePe has more than 650 million registered users and processed nearly 10 billion of the 21.7 billion transactions on India's unified payments interface (UPI) in Jan, regulatory data showed. Payments in India remain a low-margin business.

PhonePe's losses widened to Rs 1,444 crore ($158 million) in the six months ended Sept 30, from Rs 1,203 crore a year earlier, while revenue rose about 22% to Rs 3,918 crore, the IPO filing showed. Two portfolio managers who met the company's management during pre-IPO roadshows said enthusiasm around the fintech sector had cooled and questions persisted over PhonePe's ability to monetise its user base — a key reason it may not secure a valuation closer to its last funding round.

"Monetisation remains a question mark. Active users aren't growing at the same pace, so the game is all about upsell and that remains to be seen," one of the portfolio managers said. Investors also see India's fintech market as crowded, with limited differentiation among players, said a third source, a banker to the issue. These sources also spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorised to speak to the media. REUTERS

Anthropic revenue soars amid Pentagon showdown

Anthropic PBC is on track to generate annual revenue of nearly $20 billion, based on its current run rate, more than doubling from late last year — a sign of the AI company's rapid growth ahead of its recent clash with the Pentagon.

The artificial intelligence firm has surpassed $19 billion in annualised run-rate revenue, up from $9 billion at the end of 2025 and about $14 billion a few weeks ago, people familiar with the matter said. The growth has been driven by strong adoption of Anthropic's AI models and products, including its coding tool Claude Code, they added. Anthropic, now valued at $380 billion, has seen strong momentum this year. Several of its products have drawn viral attention for automating complex tasks, including Claude Code. However, a dispute with the Pentagon over AI safeguards has cast uncertainty over parts of its business.

Revenue @20 billion

On Friday, US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth designated the AI developer a "supply-chain risk" — a classification typically reserved for firms from countries viewed as adversaries by the US. The move followed a standoff in which Anthropic sought restrictions on the Pentagon's use of its AI technologies for surveillance and autonomous weapons. Hegseth's declaration is intended to block Anthropic's sales to the US govt and potentially affect related contracts. Anthropic called the move "legally unsound" and said it is prepared to challenge any supply-chain risk designation in court.

The long-term impact of the Pentagon's action on Anthropic's enterprise software sales — historically its core business — remains unclear. In the meantime, it continues to gain traction with consumers. The company's main app recently topped Apple's download charts, reflecting a surge in interest during the dispute with the Pentagon.

RBI: Governance lapses behind financial failures

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Warning that governance lapses—not a lack of knowledge—lie at the heart of many financial failures, RBI deputy governor **J Swaminathan** said institutions often ignore red flags because incentives discourage speaking up, allowing risks to fester until they erupt into crises.

Delivering the keynote address at the 3rd International Finance and Accounting Conference (IFAC) at the Indian Institute of Management Jammu, Swaminathan said: "People knew what was going wrong, but they did not speak up. Or they spoke up, but no one listened. Or everyone noticed red flags, but incentives pushed them to look away."

Swaminathan stressed that leadership—not just technology or capital— will determine whether India achieves its 2047 aspirations. Leadership in finance, he said, is about judgment and discipline. "It is about what you choose to reward, what you choose to question, and what you choose to fix early." In his address, Swaminathan repeatedly cautioned that scale and speed in modern finance can become double-edged swords if not anchored in governance and discipline. Swaminathan pointed out that India's financial system is operating in an era where products, platforms, and credit models can scale to millions within months.

MRF to invest ₹5,300 crore in greenfield TN factory

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Tyre maker MRF will invest Rs 5,300 crore to set up a greenfield factory to manufacture automotive tyres and allied products in south Tamil Nadu. The investment at Sipcot Industrial Park in Sivaganga district will be made over 12 years.

The advanced tyre manufacturing facility is expected to generate around 1,000 jobs, the state govt said in a statement on Wednesday. An MoU was exchanged between the company and Guidance Tamil Nadu in the presence of chief minister M K Stalin. MRF chairman and managing director K M Mammen and vice-chairman and managing director Arun Mammen were present at the event.

MRF has 10 factories in the country, of which three are located in Chennai, Arakkonam and Perambalur in Tamil Nadu, the statement added. In a separate filing to the stock exchanges, MRF said it has entered into a non-binding MoU with the govt of Tamil Nadu, through its nodal agency Guidance, to facilitate the setting up of the greenfield manufacturing facility.

The MoU is subject to sanction of a customised incentive package, infrastructure support including land, and statutory approvals under applicable laws by the state govt, the filing said.

TN launches shipbuilding policy

Chennai: Seeking a larger share of the global shipbuilding industry, Tamil Nadu on Wednesday unveiled its shipbuilding policy, covering shipyards, repair and maintenance services, and green ship recycling, reports **Yogesh Kabirdoss**.

The state aims to establish itself as a global leader in sustainable and technologically advanced shipbuilding. The policy offers incentives across categories such as defence craft, submarines, luxury yachts and offshore docks used for vessel repair and maintenance, besides support for R&D institutions and global capability centres (GCCs) in the sector.

The policy, released by chief minister M K Stalin, focuses on making Tamil Nadu the shipbuilding and repair capital of the country. It seeks to position the state as a preferred destination for global shipbuilders and investors through world-class infrastructure, targeted incentives and a focus on sustainability and resilience. It aims to nurture a shipbuilding cluster that accelerates economic growth.

Accenture acquires Downdetector unit

Ziff Davis has agreed to sell its Connectivity division, which houses Ookla's Speedtest app and Downdetector outage tracker, to Accenture for $1.2 billion in cash.

The sale, which also includes Ekahau and RootMetrics, will allow Ziff Davis to focus on its enthusiast websites such as IGN and Mashable, as well as Everyday Health and iBuyNewCar. Shares of Ziff Davis rose more than 60% in early trade, while Accenture shares were largely unchanged.

The transaction builds on a streamlining push under chief executive officer Vivek Shah since 2017, including the 2021 spin-off of Consensus Cloud and the 2022 sale of insurance brokerage Policygenius. Ziff Davis said the proceeds will be used for general corporate purposes and capital allocation, in line with its debt agreements. The Connectivity division traces its origins to bolt-on acquisitions such as Ookla for $15 million in 2014 and RootMetrics in 2016. The unit benefited from the global 5G rollout and pandemic-driven surge in bandwidth demand, generating $231 million in revenue last year, about 16% of Ziff Davis' total revenue.

FOR $1.2BN

"With the Ookla portfolio, we will offer end-to-end network intelligence services essential for AI-led transformation," said Manish Sharma, chief strategy and services officer at Accenture. REUTERS

Indium expects AI platform to drive growth

Chennai: Indium Software expects 25% yearly growth even as concerns increase over AI companies commoditising certain categories. Speaking to **TOI**, Ram Sukumar, chief executive and co-founder of the digital engineering company, said despite softer market conditions, the company recorded 30% growth last year and anticipates organic growth and potential upside from acquisitions. Data and analytics, AI and application engineering are the driving demand. Sukumar said the company is betting on an agentic orchestration platform focusing on legacy modernisation, data migration and testing. "It is very integral to our plans forward and we expect at least 20% to 30% of our revenue to be influenced by it. We are not planning to charge licenses at this point in time" he said. TNN

HASSAN MANGALORE RAIL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
(A Joint Venture of Government of Karnataka & Ministry of Railways)
Reg. Office: MSIL House, 7th floor, #36, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru-560001. Tele: 080-23120582
E-mail: ceohmrdc@gmail.com CIN: U45203KA2003SGC032183
No: HMRDC/Project/12/Capital Consultancy/2025-26 Date: 05.03.2026
TENDER NOTICE
HMRDC invites sealed tender for the engagement of an independent Consultant for Capital investment review, Capacity Augmentation Planning and cost Apportionment Study.
The last date for receipt of the Tender is 27-03-2026 at 05.00 P.M.
For more details interested parties may visit the registered office of the Company mentioned above or visit our website: www.hmrdc.com under Tenders / EOI's.
Sd/-
CS/HMRDC
DIPR/CP/SMCL/6006/2025-26

DEPARTMENT OF MINORITY WELFARE
Directorate of Minorities
No.16C, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Bhavan, Miller Tank Bund Road, Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru - 52.
Website: https://dom.karnataka.gov.in
Muslim, Christian, Jain, Buddhist, Sikh, Parsi
ANNOUNCEMENT OF ONLINE APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION TO FREE INTEGRATED P.U.C WITH NEET/ IIT-JEE/K-CET/ICAR/CUET/CLAT/ CA-FOUNDATION EXAMINATION COACHING FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-27
Online Application
• Applications are invited from eligible candidates for free integrated P.U.C with NEET/IIT-JEE/K-CET/ICAR/ CUET/CLAT/CA-FOUNDATION entrance exam coaching for the academic year 2026-27.
Timeline
Submission of online applications starts from: 05.03.2026.
Last Date for submission of online applications : 31.03.2026.
• Entirely residential program with free food, accommodation and other facilities.
• Exclusive two years entrance exam coaching with P.U.C from dedicated and expert faculty.
• Exclusive Girls and Boys Campus.
Eligibility
• Candidates must be domiciled in Karnataka State.
• Candidates must belong to religious minority community (Muslim, Christian, Jain, Buddhist, Sikh and Parsi).
• Candidates must belong to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and other backward classes.
• Candidates must be studying or passed 10th standard.
• The overall annual family income of the candidates must not exceed Rs.8.00 Lakhs.
Instructions for Applicants
• Applicants are advised to obtain information from the concerned Minority District Office, Minority Residential Pre-University Colleges, Minority Information Centre, Minority Welfare Department and submit their application as per the guidelines.
• For more details contact your concerned District Minority Officer, Minority Welfare Department and also contact Helpline Number: 8277799990.
Date: 05.03.2026
Place: Bengaluru
Sd/-
Director
Directorate of Minorities, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/SMCL/6006/2025-26

DEPARTMENT OF MINORITY WELFARE
Directorate of Minorities
No.16C, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Bhavan, Miller Tank Bund Road, Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru - 52.
Website: https://dom.karnataka.gov.in
Muslim, Christian, Jain, Buddhist, Sikh, Parsi
ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESIDENTIAL KAS MOCK INTERVIEW SUPPORTING PROGRAMME FOR THE YEAR 2025-26
Online Application
• Applications are invited for Residential **KAS MOCK INTERVIEW** Supporting programme at Haj Bhavan, Bengaluru, for the students belonging to religious minority community for the year 2025-26.
Timeline
Date for Submission of applications starts from: 05.03.2026.
Last Date for submission of applications : 13.03.2026.
Eligibility
• Students must be residence of Karnataka State.
• Students must be belonging to religious minority community (Muslim, Christian, Jain, Buddhist, Sikh and Parsi).
• Students must be cleared KAS Mains Exam in 2024 KPSC notification.
Instructions for Applicants
• Applicants are advised the application form available on the website of the Directorate of Minorities at **https://dom.karnataka.gov.in** and submit the application as per the guidelines.
• For more details contact your concerned District Minority Officer, Minority Welfare Department and also contact Helpline Number: 8277799990.
Date: 05.03.2026
Place: Bengaluru
Sd/-
Director
Directorate of Minorities, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/SMCL/6006/2025-26

TELANGANA STATE CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED
(A STATE GOVT. UNDERTAKING)
Regd. Office: "B" block, # 6-3-655/1/A, Civil Supplies Bhavan, Somajiguda, Hyderabad - 500 082, Telangana
Lr.No.Mktg/1171/G/Unserviceable gunny/2019-20/TS Dated: .03.2026.
E-TENDER NOTICE
PAN India Tenders disposal of around 2.57 Crore unserviceable old 50kg gunnies to be disposed on "As is where is basis" from various buffer godowns / MLS Points of TGSCSCL in the Districts of Telangana State through GeM-Portal. Pre-bid Meeting will be held on **12.03.2026** and Tenders will be opened for technical scrutiny on **23.03.2026** afternoon onwards and details can be viewed and participated through **www.gem.gov.in/ tgscscl.telangana.gov.in**. Contact details: **7995050703**
Sd/-Vice Chairman & Managing Director
DIPR R.O.No.1231-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2025-26 Dt:04-03-2026

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
Office of the Chief Engineer (East), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-560 009.
IFT No.:BWSSB/CE(E)/ACE(E)-I/DCE(M)-I/TA(E)/9140/ 2025-26 Date: 04.03.2026
INVITATION FOR TENDER - 2nd Call
(Only through KPP Portal)
BWSSB invites tenders in two stage tender system from eligible tenderers for the Work of **Providing, Laying & Linking 600mm dia Feeder main MS water pipeline & Trenchless works to improve water supply facilities Hoodi Ward & Surrounding areas and Cross roads coming under AEE(E)-1-1 Sub division. Indent No: 3153**
Amount put to Tender : **Rs.305.68 lakhs.** EMD : **Rs. 4.59 Lakhs.**
The last date for submission of completed tender document is on 12.03.2026 upto 16.00 hrs. and Date of opening of tender on 13.03.2026 after 16:00 hrs. The details regarding participation in the tendering process and tender can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the below signed office during working hours.
Sd/-
Chief Engineer (East)
DiPR/CP/5990/AKAR/2025-26

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No. CEE/T&P/SE-2/2025-26/10419-32 Date : 03.03.2026
BRIEF SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)
KPTCL invites Bids on electronic mode for the following works against following enquiry numbers on **Partial Turnkey basis**.

Enquiry number/ Name of the Work
KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT3413
Combined Package of **Work-A:** Establishing 2x160MVA, 220/110kV & 1x10MVA, 110/11kV sub-station at **Baidoddi (Arasigera)** and construction of associated transmission lines for a distance of 220kV – **2.925km** and 110kV – **90.901km** along with terminal bays in Raichur Taluk & District. **Work-B:** Establishing 2x20MVA, 110/11kV sub-station at **Ashapur** road and Construction of 110kV LILO line for a distance of **3.115 km** in Raichur Taluk, Raichur District. **Work-C:** Establishing 2x20MVA, 110/11kV sub-Station at **Amdihal** and Construction of 110 kV LILO line for a distance of **6.64 km** in Lingasugur Taluk, Raichur District. **Work-D:** Establishing 2x20MVA, 110/11kV sub-station at **Halapura (Joladarasi)** and Construction of 110kV LILO line for a distance of **9.39 km** in Maski Taluk, Raichur District.

The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after **10.03.2026 @ 15:00 hrs**. Last date & time for receipt of bids and **any extension of Due date for bid submission will be intimated in the Karnataka Public Procurement portal**. Any details required in this regard can be obtained from the Office of the undersigned during Office hours.
All Corrigendum/Addendums shall be noticed by the bidders before the last date of submission of the bids.
Sd/- Chief Engineer, (Electy.), Tendering & Procurement, KPTCL, 9th Floor, Indhana Bhavana, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560 009.

National Health Mission
STATE HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE SOCIETY
Arogya Soudha, 1st Floor, Magadi Road, Bengaluru - 560023.
Phone No: 080-23113584 e-mail: pdrch-hfws@karnataka.gov.in
No: DD/NCD/06/2025-26 (Part-A) (1778672) Date: 04-03-2026
Indent No: NHM/2025-26/SE0039
SERVICE TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-Procurement)
National Health Mission (NHM), Karnataka invites Sealed Proposals through e-Procurement Portal from eligible and Qualified Agencies for **Selection of Service Provider for Setting up a Time Bound System (ECG and its Transmission, Interpretation and Tele - Reporting) for Diagnosis of Patients with ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI) in Karnataka under NHM.**
Tender document with detailed eligibility criteria, scope of work, terms and conditions will be available on the official e-Procurement Portal of the Government of Karnataka (**www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**). Interested bidders are requested to participate as per the schedule mentioned in the tender document.
The tender document can be downloaded through e-Procurement Portal **from 04-03-2026 onwards** and Last Date for Receipt of Tender is **on or before 5.30 PM on 17-04-2026.**
Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during the office hours **from 11.00 AM. to 5.30 PM.**
Sd/-
Project Director (RCH)
DIPR/CP/6008/Adverto/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಸಣ್ಣ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಹಿರಿಯೂರು ವಿಭಾಗ (ಮ.ಕ)
ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: milhly@yahoo.co.in ಫೋನ್ ನಂ: 08194-220113
ಕ.ಸ.ನೀ/ಇ.ಅ/ಹಿರಿಯೂರು/4782/2025-26/2389 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27/01/2026
ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ) ಕಾಯ್ದೆ-4
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪೂರೈಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇರಬೇಕಾದ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ ಮತ್ತು ಅದರ ನಿಯಮಗಳಿಗೆ ಅನುಗುಣವಾಗಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾದ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ-2000 ಮತ್ತು ಅದರ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳಂತೆ KW-4 (ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್) ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ "ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನ" ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ.
1) ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಂ: 10156
ಮೇಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆಯನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ ಮತ್ತು ನಿಯಮ "https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in" ದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05-03-2026 ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10ಗಂಟೆಯಿಂದ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗುವುದು. ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10-03-2026 ರೊಳಗಾಗಿ ವಿವರಗಳ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟೀಕರಣಗಳಿಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಅಥವಾ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11-03-2026 ರ ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 05.15 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಹಾಜರಾತಿಗೆ ಅಂಚೆ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 12-03-2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 05.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಆಫ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ಅಂಚೆ ಮೂಲಕ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ ಹಾಗೂ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.
ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಒಪ್ಪಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಸಮಿತಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರ ಮಾರ್ಗಸೂಚಿಗಳನ್ವಯ ಕೆಪಿಟಿಟ್ಟಿ-4 ಬಿಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ನಲ್ಲಿರುವಂತೆ ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಅಂತಿಮ.
ಮಿಗಿಲು: ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.
ಸಹಿ/-, (ಎಂ. ಚಂದ್ರಶೇಖರ)
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು
ಸಣ್ಣ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಹಿರಿಯೂರು ವಿಭಾಗ (ಮ.ಕ)
DIPR/CP/5990/AKAR/2025-26

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer (QA/QC), 4th Floor, Jayanagar Commercial Complex, 30th Cross Road, 9th Main Road, Jayanagar 4th Block, Bengaluru-11.
No:EE(QA/QC)Z-2/BSCC/TEND/01/2025-26 Date: 04.03.2026
Short Term Tender Notification (Call-2)
(Two Cover System) (Only through KPP Portal)
website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
The Executive Engineer, Bengaluru South City Corporation (BSCC), Quality Assurance / Quality Control Division, invites Request for Proposal from interested persons/firms those **who have done similar type of work for Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervison, Quality Control (PMC)** for the below works through KPP Portal.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1.	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality Control for Improvements to existing asphalted road by resurfacing with proper camber, shoulder formation, side drain improvement and road safety measures to selected arterial, sub arterial and other important roads under Capital Support for Special Infra Projects (CSSIP) (Comprising of 2 works in GO BSCC No.74,77) Package No. CSSIP MDP-01. **Project Cost (₹ in Lakhs) : 1170.00, EMD (in ₹) 43,900/-.**
2.	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality Control for Improvements to existing asphalted road by resurfacing with proper camber, shoulder formation, side drain improvement and road safety measures to selected arterial, sub arterial and other important roads under Capital Support for Special Infra Projects (CSSIP) (Comprising of 4 works in GO BSCC No.34,50,49,78)) Package No. CSSIP MDP-03. **Project Cost (₹ in Lakhs) : 1000.00, EMD (in ₹) 37,500/-.**

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP Portal from **05.03.2026, (2)** Pre bid Meeting on **09.03.2026 at 11:30 a.m. (3)** Last Date & Time for receipt of Tenders : **12.03.2026 up to 4:00 p.m. (4)** Opening of Technical bid: **13.03.2026 at 4:30 p.m.**
Sd/- Executive Engineer, (QA/QC) Zone-2, BSCC.

ARE THE US ATTACKS ON IRAN LEGAL?

The US military has joined Israel and attacked more than 1,000 targets in Iran and killed many of its top officials, including Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Here's a look at the legality of the US attacks, which critics say exceed the president's authority and fail to comply with international law.

WHAT HAS TRUMP SAID?

President Donald Trump has provided varying objectives and justifications. He has said he felt Iran was going to strike first and the attack was meant to eliminate imminent threats to the United States, its military bases overseas and allies, although he did not provide details and some claims were not backed by US intelligence reports. Trump also said, without evidence, that Iran could obtain a nuclear weapon within one month, contradicting his claims in June that the US military had "obliterated" Iran's nuclear programme.

WAR POWERS RESOLUTION

The US'sWar Powers Resolution (WPR) of 1973 acts as a check on presidential power. Under the WPR, the president can only involve the military in an armed conflict when Congress has declared war, or provided specific authority, or in response to an attack on US territory or its military. It requires the president to report regularly to Congress, which the administration started to do on Monday. The WPR also requires unauthorised military actions to be terminated within 60 days unless the deadline is extended. It provides a procedure for Congress to withdraw the military from a conflict and members of both parties have said they plan to put such legislation to a vote this week.

PRESIDENTIAL POWER TO USE THE MILITARY

The attacks on Iran are pushing the boundaries of Trump's constitutional authority, according to US legal experts. Under the US Constitution, the president commands the armed forces and directs foreign relations, but only Congress has the power to declare war. Presidents of both parties have conducted military strikes without congressional approval when it was in the national interest but less intense in duration and scope than what would be considered a war — a limit that Trump may be testing.

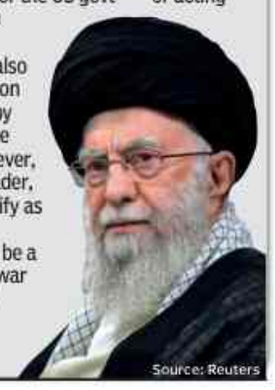
AFTERMATH: People stand in rubble at the site of an Israel and US strike on a police station in Tehran, Iran

WHAT DOES INTERNATIONAL LAW SAY?

Many countries will consider the attacks unjustified under the United Nations Charter, which says that member-states must refrain from using force or the threat of force against other states. There are exceptions when force is authorised by the UN Security Council or used in self-defence in response to armed attack, neither of which applies. There is also the concept of pre-emptive self-defence, which would arguably allow the US to attack Iran if it had proof of an imminent, overwhelming attack. The US has a veto at the UN Security Council, shielding Washington.

WAS THE KILLING OF KHAMENEI LEGAL?

US legal experts said it is not clear cut. Israel is reported to have carried out the actual strike that killed Khamenei, while the US offered intelligence and operational support. Republican President Ronald Reagan in 1981 signed Executive Order 12333 which prohibited anyone working for the US govt or acting on its behalf from engaging in assassination. It also barred participation in assassination by the US intelligence community. However, the killing of a leader, which might qualify as assassination in peacetime, could be a legitimate act of war during an armed conflict, legal experts said.



Source: Reuters

Khamenei's Son Mojtaba Alive And Likely To Succeed Him

US And Israel Press On With Assaults On Iran; Khamenei Funeral Postponed

Dubai/Jerusalem: Mojtaba Khamenei, the powerful son of Iran's slain supreme leader Ali Khamenei, is alive and favoured to emerge as his father's successor, two Iranian sources told Reuters on Wednesday.

As new explosions rang out in Tehran, plans were in doubt for a funeral for the elder Khamenei, 86, killed by Israeli forces on Saturday in the first assassination of a nation's top ruler by airstrike. The body had been expected to lie in state in a vast Tehran mosque from Wednesday evening, but state media reported a farewell ceremony had been postponed.

The United States and Israel pressed on with their round-the-clock assaults on Iran on Wednesday in a campaign that the top US commander said was "ahead of the game plan". A fall in global markets turned into a rout in Asia, including a record-breaking crash in Seoul, as some investors were unconvinced by US President Donald Trump's assurances he would quickly reopen the world's most important shipping corridor and release blockaded Middle East oil and gas. But European markets stabilised and turned higher after two days of sharp losses, on hopes that the war might end soon.

The two Iranian sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Mojtaba, 56, was not in Tehran during the strike that destroyed the leader's compound and also killed the elder Khamenei's wife, another son and a number of senior military and leadership figures. Iran said the assembly of experts that will select the new leader will announce its decision soon, only the second time it has done so since the Islamic Republic's founding in 1979. "The supreme leader will be identified in the closest opportunity, we are close to a conclusion. However the situation in the country is a war situation," assembly member Ayatollah Ahmad Khatami told state TV. He said the candidates had already been identified but did not name them.

Israel said it would hunt down whoever was chosen

"Every leader appointed by the Iranian terror regime to continue and lead the plan to destroy Israel, to threaten the United States and the free world and the countries of the region, and to suppress the Iranian people — will be an unequivocal target for elimination," defence minister Israel Katz said in a statement. "It does not matter what his name is or the place where he hides."

Israel said its forces hit targets across Iran for a fifth day. An Israeli F-35 fighter jet shot down an Iranian Yak-130 over Tehran, believed to be the first time the new generation F-35 has downed a manned aircraft in combat.

Mojtaba Khamenei seen as clear favourite

Other candidates for supreme leader including Hassan Khomeini, grandson of Islamic Republic's founder and a champion of the reformist faction that has been sidelined in recent decades. But the clear favourite appears to be Mojtaba Khamenei, who amassed power under his father as a senior figure in the forces and the vast business empire they control. Choosing him would send a signal that hardliners were still firmly in charge. REUTERS

REUTERS

NEXT IN LINE: A file photo of Mojtaba Khamenei (right), the second son of Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, in Tehran

US lawmakers set to vote on war powers

Washington: Lawmakers in the US Senate were set to begin voting on Wednesday on a bipartisan war powers resolution aiming to stop the military campaign against Iran and require that any hostilities against it be authorized by Congress.

The latest effort by Democrats and a few Republicans to rein in President Donald Trump's repeated troop deployments, sponsors describe it as a bid to take back Congress' responsibility to declare war, as spelled out in the US constitution. "I do think it's really important to put every member of Congress on the record about this," Democratic Senator Tim Kaine of Virginia, a lead sponsor of the resolution, told a telephone press conference ahead of the afternoon's vote. "If you don't have the guts to vote 'Yes' or 'No' on a war vote, how dare you send our sons and daughters into war where they risk their lives?" REUTERS

Trump lashes out at Starmer, says 'this is not Winston Churchill'

Naomi Canton

London: US President Donald Trump has lashed out at UK PM **Keir Starmer** over Iran saying he is "not happy" with the UK and saying of the British Prime Minister "This is not Winston Churchill that we are dealing with."

Referring to Starmer's delayed response in giving the US permission to use Diego Garcia to attack Iranian missile sites, Trump said at the White House on Wednesday: "It's taken three, four days, for us to work out where we can land there; it would have been much more convenient landing there as opposed to flying many extra hours, so we are very surprised." He continued: "This is not the age of Churchill. I will say the UK has been very, very uncooperative with that stupid island that they have, that they gave away… having to do with, perhaps, indigenous people claiming the island that never even saw the island before. What's that all about? They ruin relationships. It's a shame."

Britain had denied the US permission to conduct strikes from its bases, on Saturday, citing international law.

Hindus for Labour issued a statement strongly rejecting Trump's brutal attack on the Prime Minister saying Starmer must act according to rule of law, democratic institutions and parliamentary scrutiny. The group said that if Trump wants Starmer to emulate Churchill, then it is reasonable to expect Trump to demonstrate the constitutional restraint of Franklin D. Roosevelt who would not have gone to war in Iran without approval of Congress.

In the House of Commons Starmer appeared to rebuke Trump by saying "this govt do not believe in regime change from the skies" telling MPs that military action must have a lawful basis and "a viable and "thought-through plan". Asked at PMQ's whether his "dithering" had made the US-UK special relationship "stronger or weaker", Starmer replied: "The American planes are operating out of British bases. British jets are shooting down drones and missiles to protect American lives in the Middle East on our joint bases. That is the special relationship in action. Hanging on to Trump's latest words is not."

AMIDST CHAOS & CALM

APPEAL TO ALMIGHTY: Iranian clerics and volunteers from the Bsij military, who are helping clear the streets, pray next to the rubble of a police station destroyed in airstrikes in central Tehran, on Wednesday

NO FEAR: A boy tries to climb on an unexploded Iranian projectile that landed in an open field on the outskirts of Qamishli, Syria, on Wednesday

BEARING THE BRUNT: Smoke rises from a building damaged during Israeli strikes in Beirut, Lebanon on Wednesday

IN TEARS: A woman cries near a police station destroyed by airstrikes in Tehran

US withdraws staff from consulates in 2 Pak cities

AFP

STRICT VIGIL: Police stand guard outside the US consulate in Karachi on Wednesday

Islamabad: The United States announced on Wednesday the withdrawal of non-emergency staff from its consulates in the Pakistani cities of Karachi and Lahore due to security concerns.

The decision came just days after protesters tried to storm US consulates and the embassy after the killing of Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in US-Israeli joint air strikes.

"The Department of State ordered non-emergency US government employees and the family members of US government personnel from US Consulates in Lahore and Karachi to leave Pakistan due to safety risks," the US Mission in Pakistan said in a statement.

It said there was no change to the status of its embassy in Islamabad.

The advisory noted "an ongoing threat of drone and missile attacks from Iran and significant disruptions to commercial flights" amid the ongoing conflict in the region.

Although there is an additional consulate in Peshawar, the updated travel advisory did not mention it. PTI

Spain digs in as rift with US deepens, 'no to war', says PM Pedro Sanchez

HARD STANCE: Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez had refused to allow the US to use joint military bases in the country in its attacks on Iran

Madrid: Spain's Prime Minister defiantly posted "no to the war" on Wednesday, deepening a rift with the United States after Madrid refused the use of its bases to attack Iran and Washington threatened trade reprisals.

Spain's Socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez had already angered US President Donald Trump with a series of other policies. Sanchez has refused to join Nato allies in a pledge to boost defence spending to 5% of GDP as demanded by Trump, and has fiercely criticised Israel's war in Gaza.

Trump lashed out at Sanchez's government on Tuesday, calling Spain a "terrible" ally and threatening to sever all trade with Spain. Sanchez defended his position on Wednesday, saying his government's position "can be summed up in four words: no to the war".

"We will not be complicit in something that is harmful to the world and contrary to our values and interests, simply out of fear of retaliation," he added in a televised address.

Spain is part of the European Union, which allows goods to move freely between its 27 countries. This would complicate any bid to impose trade restrictions on a single member state. European Council chief Antonio Costa wrote on X that he had called Sanchez to "express the EU's full solidarity with Spain". "The EU will always ensure that the interests of its member states are fully protected," Costa said. French President Emmanuel Macron also called to "express France's European solidarity in response to the recent threats of economic coercion targeting Spain," his office said. AFP

London police arrest three men on suspicion of spying for China

London: Three men suspected of spying for China were arrested Wednesday, London police said. One of the three men is the husband of a lawmaker from the governing Labour Party. The three allegedly assisted a foreign intelligence service in violation of the National Security Act of 2023, Metropolitan Police said.

Police did not name the suspects because they haven't been charged. They said one was a 39-year arrested in London, another was a 68-year-old arrested in Powys, Wales and the third, a 43-year-old, was arrested in Pontyclun, Wales.

With calls growing for one of the three to be named in light of speculation that he was the husband of a lawmaker, Joani Reid, the member of parliament for the Scottish constituency of East Kilbride and Strathaven, issued a statement indicating her husband was among those arrested, insisting that she herself was not involved. She did not name her husband David Taylor. "I have never seen anything to make me suspect my husband has broken any law," she said. The arrests are the latest in a number of arrests of people accused of causing political interference on behalf of China. AP

Nato def destroyed incoming missile from Iran: Turkey

REUTERS

REMNANTS OF WAR: Debris of a Nato air defence system that intercepted a missile launched from Iran is seen in Dortyol, in southern Hatay province, Turkey on Wednesday

Ankara: Turkey said that Nato air defences destroyed a ballistic missile fired from Iran as it headed into Turkish airspace on Wednesday, marking the first time the alliance member has been drawn into the expanding conflict.

It was unclear where the missile was headed, but a Nato spokesperson said the trans-Atlantic defence bloc condemned Iran's targeting of Turkey and that it stood firmly with allies. The Turkish defence ministry said the missile had passed over Iraq and Syria before it was downed by Nato air and missile defence systems stationed in the eastern Mediterranean. There was no comment from the United States, which has air forces stationed at Incirlik base in Turkey's south. The base is in a province bordering Hatay province, where Turkish authorities said debris from the intercepting Nato missile had fallen.

"We warn all parties to refrain from actions that would lead to further escalation of conflict in the region. In this context, we will continue to consult with Nato and our other allies," the defence ministry said, adding there were no casualties or injuries. "All necessary steps to defend our territory and airspace will be taken resolutely and without hesitation. We remind all parties that we reserve the right to respond to any hostile actions against our country," it added.

Two other initial statements by senior Turkish officials about the incident did not mention Nato's Article 4, which states that allies will "consult together whenever, in the opinion of any of them, the territorial integrity, political independence or security" of a member is threatened. Turkish foreign minister Hakan Fidan conveyed a protest to Iranian counterpart Abbas Araqchi in a call after the incident, a Turkish diplomatic source said.

Ankara sought to mediate talks between Iran and the United States in the weeks before the US and Israel launched strikes against Iran, triggering missile and drone attacks by Tehran. Several countries in the Gulf and elsewhere have been caught in the fallout. REUTERS

Pakistan targets Afghanistan's famed Bagram airbase

Islamabad: Pakistan targeted the famed Bagram airbase in Afghanistan as its operation was going against the Afghan Taliban over their alleged failure to stop terrorist attacks from their soil, media reports said on Wednesday.

State-run PTV in a post on X said that Pakistan carried out a "major attack on Bagram Air Base" as it was giving a "befitting response to Afghan Taliban aggression". "Pakistan continues to conduct vigorous ground and air operations against the unprovoked aggression of the Afghan Taliban," it said. PTV often quoted unnamed sources for reports on the Afghanistan attacks, but for the Bagram attack, it quoted The New York Times.

"An aircraft hangar and two warehouses at Bagram Air Base were destroyed in a Pakistani attack, satellite images of which have also emerged," PTV reported, quoting The NYT.

It further said that Afghanistan's ministry of defence also confirmed the Pakistani airstrike, adding Pakistan carried out more than 50 airstrikes on military targets in Afghanistan in the past week.

Quoting defence experts, the channel further said that Pakistan's "successful operation" on Bagram Air Base caused heavy damage to the Afghan Taliban regime. "By targeting Bagram Air Base, Pakistan sent a clear message to the Afghan Taliban regime that it can operate anywhere in Afghanistan," it quoted an unnamed defence expert as saying. PTI

Turkey's Erdogan offers to try to revive a truce as Pakistan-Afghan border clashes enter sixth day

Islamabad: Turkish President **Recep Tayyip Erdogan** on Wednesday offered to mediate for a new ceasefire between Pakistan and Afghanistan as border clashes between the two nations entered their sixth day. Pakistan's army chief said lasting peace depends on Kabul cutting ties with militants targeting his country.

According to a statement from the Turkish presidential office, Erdogan, in a telephone call with Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif "condemned the terrorist attacks in Pakistan" and said Turkey would seek to "contribute to the reestablishment of the ceasefire between Pakistan and Afghanistan." Sharif's office did not directly confirm Erdogan's offer but said the two leaders discussed tensions along the 2,611-kilometer (1,622-mile) -long Afghan-Pakistan border.

There was also no immediate comment on Erdogan's offer from the Taliban government in Afghanistan but Kabul may see the Turkish president's comments as one-sided or even openly supporting Islamabad. AP

PIO diplomat criticises UK foreign office for being woke, quits

Naomi Canton

London: An Indian-origin senior British diplomat has quit the UK foreign office criticising it for being woke, stuffed with paper-pushers and underperformers and putting the "worship of international law" above national security.

In a column in the UK Times tiled 'Foreign Office fails to put Britain first', Ameer Kotecha wrote: "Our impotence on Iran and craven surrender over Chagos happen when the long-term national interest is sacrificed to unquestioning worship of international law, the demands of noisy activist groups, or the appeasing of sectarian voting blocs."

He called for a "more ruthless focus on what benefits the British people" and said the govt's decision to hand over the Chagos islands and UK PM Keir Starmer's slowness to act on Iran influenced his decision to quit.

"Rather than a really clear-sighted, level-headed assessment of what's in the national interest and what's good for the UK, we're instead having our entire foreign policy dictated by what the lawyers tell us international law requires. I'm ashamed to serve this govt, so I've decided to throw the towel in," he told the UK Times.

Kotecha, an Oxford graduate, stepped down from his post at the British embassy in Tel Aviv last month. He said: "If the civil service was once a Rolls-Royce, it is now a banged-up hatchback driven by someone with decidedly dicey vision and a passionate hatred of driving. Our country will not get back on track until the car and the driver are made roadworthy once more."

He said on the day Kabul fell to the Taliban, he was invited to attend an event to mark World Afro Day (to celebrate Afro hair) and this week, with war raging in the Middle East, the main news on the foreign office intranet was about "taking charge of your development".

"In discussions about how the foreign office could improve productivity with AI, some colleagues were more concerned with an environmental impact assessment," he said, adding some colleagues worked from home as "they didn't want to work in a colonial office building."

"IT'S ABOUT ONE OR TWO SHOTS THAT CAN FIND ABHISHEK RHYTHM. HE'S NOT A GUY THAT WORRIES TOO MUCH ABOUT TECHNIQUE. THOSE PLAYERS TAKE A LOT MORE TIME TO GET THEIR CONFIDENCE BACK."
—Morne Morkel, INDIA BOWLING COACH

IMPERFECT RIVALS LOOK FOR THE PERFECT NIGHT

India And England Meet In Third Straight T20 WC Semifinal With Both Teams Showing Identical Frailties

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Mumbai: India and England will clash in their third consecutive T20 World Cup semifinal at the Wankhede Stadium on Thursday night. Both sides have one win each in their previous knockout meetings, with the victor on both occasions going on to lift the trophy.

England thrashed India by 10 wickets in the 2022 T20 World Cup semifinal, chasing 170 with openers Alex Hales (86 not out) and Jos Buttler (80 not out) dominating on a flat Adelaide pitch. Two years later in Providence, India avenged that defeat with a 68-run victory as spinners Kuldeep Yadav (3-19) and Axar Patel (3-28) bowled England out for 103 in 16.4 overs.

India had beaten England 4-1 in a five-match T20I series last January, sealing it with a 150-run win at the Wankhede. However, the stakes are much higher in a World Cup semifinal.

Both teams enter the match with confidence, though England appear to have greater momentum after winning all three of their Super 8 matches against Sri Lanka, Pakistan and New Zealand. India, meanwhile, will be looking to defy history — no defending champion has retained the T20 World Cup and no host nation has won the title. In fact, no defending champion has even reached the final in the subsequent edition.

India topped Group A alongside Pakistan and associate teams, winning all four league matches. However, their batting has looked vulnerable on slower pitches against spin. That was evident during a collapse against the United States at Wankhede, where the hosts slumped to 77-6 before captain Suryakumar Yadav rescued them with an unbeaten 84 off 49 balls.

England began their campaign with a narrow four-run win over Nepal at Wankhede, with Sam Curran defending 10 runs in the final over and Will Jacks producing a fine all-round effort.

They later lost to the West Indies by 30 runs at the same venue, where Sherfane Rutherford smashed 76 not out off 42 balls and the Caribbean spinners stifled England's batting.

India's Super 8 campaign started with a 76-run loss to South Africa in Ahmedabad. They bounced back by thrashing Zimbabwe by 72 runs in Chennai after posting 256 for four, and then beat the West Indies by five wickets at Eden Gardens, powered by Sanju Samson's unbeaten 97 off 50 balls and Jasprit Bumrah's double strike.

England, meanwhile, began the Super 8s with a 51-run win over Sri Lanka, bowling them out for 95. They followed it up with a two-wicket victory against Pakistan, highlighted by captain Harry Brook's blistering 100 off 51 balls and Liam Dawson's 3-24. England sealed a semifinal berth with a four-wicket win over New Zealand.

Samson has been among India's most consistent batters, in sharp contrast to opening partner Abhishek Sharma, who has managed just 80 runs in six matches at an average of 13.33, including three ducks.

His fifty against Zimbabwe remains his only significant contribution. The left-hander will hope to rediscover his touch at a venue where he once smashed 135 off 54 balls.

England too have concerns over their openers. Buttler has scored just 62 runs in seven matches at an average of 8.85, while Phil Salt has struggled for consistency apart from a 62 against Sri Lanka in Pallekele. Samson, who has struggled against short-pitched bowling, and the out-of-form Abhishek could face a stern test from Jofra Archer in the powerplay. However, Archer too has found Wankhede unforgiving, returning figures of 1-42 against Nepal and 1-48 against the West Indies.

Ishan Kishan has been quiet after a match-winning 77 off 40 balls against Pakistan in Colombo. However, he, along with Surya, Tilak Varma and Hardik Pandya — all former Mumbai Indians players — will be familiar with the Wankhede conditions.Tilak looked more comfortable after moving from No. 3 to No. 6, scoring 44 not out off 16 balls against Zimbabwe and 27 off 15 against West Indies.

India's vulnerability against spin could again be tested by England's attack comprising Adil Rashid, Liam Dawson, Rehan Ahmed and off-spinning allrounder Will Jacks. India will counter with Varun Chakravarthy and Axar Patel, though Varun has struggled for rhythm — a far cry from last year's bilateral series against England when he claimed 14 wickets in five matches at an average of 9.85.

FACE-OFF

IND vs ENG

TV TIME: 7 PM
STAR SPORTS
JIOHOTSTAR

HEAD TO HEAD

IND	ENG
17	12

LAST FIVE MATCHES

IND	W	W	L	W	W
ENG	W	W	W	W	W

VENUE: MUMBAI

WEATHER 30°C

ODDS

IND	ENG
7/10	5/4

NUMBERS GAME

6 India have won seven matches and lost one out of seven T20Is contested vs England on Indian soil between March 18, 2021 and Feb 2, 2025. England's only win during this period in India came by 26 runs at Rajkot on Jan 28, 2025.

5 The two teams have played five matches against each other in T20 World Cups between 2007 and 2024. India have recorded three wins, with England winning two.

Stats: Rajesh Kumar

PTI

AIMING HIGHER: Indian skipper Suryakumar Yadav hits one into the stands during practice

CAPTAIN BROOK BACKS BUTTLER TO COME GOOD IN SF

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Mumbai: Jos Buttler appeared to be a pale shadow of the man who was England's most feared white-ball batter at one point, and among the world's best. The out-of-form former England captain's streak of scores in the 2026 T20 World Cup read: 26, 21, 3, 3, 7, 2, 0; overall 62 runs in 7 matches at 8.85.

However, England, especially their white-ball captain Harry Brook, are not giving up on him. Going into the semi-final encounter with hosts India at the Wankhede Stadium on Thursday, England captain Harry Brook shot back when questioned on whether England were worried about Buttler's form. Brook also asserted that it was a great idea to offer any advice or suggestions to one of England's greatest-ever white-ball batters.

HARRY BROOK

"Yeah, you don't have to talk to him too much. I think leaving him alone is probably the best thing to do. He's been a powerhouse of a cricketer for many years, as we've all seen. I've been asked this question thousands of times now, and I just think there should be no reason to question why he's in the team," said Brook at the pre-match press conference.

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Allen Finnishes off South Africa

Opener's 33-Ball 100 Helps Kiwis Thrash Proteas By Nine Wickets, Enter Final

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Kolkata: In one of the most one-sided matches in the T20 World Cup, New Zealand thrashed South Africa by nine wickets in the semifinal at the Eden Gardens here to make their second final.

After the NZ spinners cast a spell to restrict South Africa to 169 for eight, their openers made a mockery of the SA attack to reach 173/1 in just 12.5 overs.

SA bowlers were found running for cover as NZ openers Tim Seifert and Finn Allen tore them apart getting 117 runs by the 10th over.

Both the players seemed to enjoy playing at a venue which will be their 'home' in a few days from now when they will join their new side Kolkata Knight Riders in the upcoming IPL.

Although Seifert departed for 58 (33b, 4x7, 2x6), Allen got the fastest 100 in the World Cup with a six off just 33 balls. The opener got his first 50 in 19 balls and improved upon that by adding the next 50 in just 14 balls to seal the deal.

Rachin Ravindra, another KKR batter, stayed unbeaten on 13 after doing the damage with the ball picking up two for 29.

The strong South Africa batting line-up struggled to get going, tumbling to 77 for five in the first 11 overs after New Zealand skipper Mitchell Santner decided to bowl after winning the toss.

Santner's masterstroke in bringing Cole McConchie in the second over of the match proved fruitful as the off-spinner picked up left-handed Quinton de Kock and Ryan Rickelton off consecutive deliveries.

The 34-year-old McConchie, who was added to the New Zealand squad as a travelling reserve after an injury to Michael Bracewell, had de Kock caught by Lockie Ferguson inside the circle and then accounted for Rickelton, caught by Allen at backward point.

Things could have been worse for SA had Rachin Ravindra not dropped an easy catch of skipper Aiden Markram, then on 3, at mid-wicket off Lockie Ferguson in the fourth over.

However, Ravindra, introduced as the sixth bowler in the eighth over of the match, made amends by having Markram caught by Daryl Mitchell inches above the ground at long-on.

SA might have hoped for a change in fortunes when Glenn Phillips dropped David Miller on two at deep extra cover after positioning himself perfectly covering a good amount of ground. But Rachin had his man four balls later, this time Mitchell taking a skier easily at long-off.While McConchie ended with two wickets in his only over, Rachin claimed two for 29 in his four overs.

Jansen shines

Marco Jansen came good with the bat, stitching together a 73-run sixth wicket stand with Tristan Stubbs. The two did not hesitate to play some big shots as SA reached 100 losing five wickets in the 14th over, their slowest in this tournament.Ferguson, coming back for his second spell, finally got the breakthrough by having Stubbs bowled with a beautiful slower one. But Jansen counter-attacked hitting Ferguson for consecutive sixes to stay undefeated on a brave 55 off just 30 balls with the help of two fours and five sixes.

PTI

Finn Allen's 33-ball ton at the Eden Gardens was his third T20I hundred and the first hundred scored by a batter in a T20 WC knockout match

Quickest Centuries in ICC T20 World Cup

Balls to 100	Batter	For	Vs	Venue	Date
33	FINN ALLEN	NZ	SA	Kolkata	4-3-2026
47	Chris Gayle	WI	Eng	Mumbai (WS)	16-3-2016
50	Chris Gayle	WI	SA	Johannesburg	11-9-2007
50	Harry Brook	Eng	Pak	Pallekele	24-2-2026
51	B McCullum	NZ	BAN	Kandy	21-9-2012
52	Rilee Rossouw	SA	BAN	Sydney	27-10-2022
52	Pathum Nissanka	SL	Aus	Pallekele	16-2-2026

SCOREBOARD

South Africa: Aiden Markram c Mitchell b Ravindra 18, Quinton de Kock c Ferguson b McConchie 10, Ryan Rickelton c Allen b McConchie 0, Dewald Brevis c Santner b Neesham 34, David Miller c Mitchell b Ravindra 6, Tristan Stubbs b Ferguson 29, Marco Jansen not out 55, Corbin Bosch b Henry 2, Kagiso Rabada c Neesham b Henry 0, Keshav Maharaj not out 1. **Extras** (LB-1, NB-1, WD-12) 14. **Total** (For 8 wickets in 20 overs) 169. **Fall of wickets:** 1-12, 2-12, 3-55, 4-77, 5-77, 6-150, 7-166, 8-166.
Bowling: Matt Henry 4-0-34-2, Cole McConchie 1-0-9-2, Lockie Ferguson 4-0-29-1, James Neesham 3-0-42-1, Mitchell Santner 4-0-25-0, Rachin Ravindra 4-0-29-2.
New Zealand: Tim Seifert b Rabada 58, Finn Allen not out 100, Rachin Ravindra not out 13. **Extras** (LB-2) 2. **Total** (For 1 wicket in 12.5 overs) 173
Fall of wickets: 1-117
Bowling: Marco Jansen 2.5-0-53-0, Kagiso Rabada 3-0-28-1, Lungi Ngidi 2-0-22-0, Corbin Bosch 2-0-35-0, Keshav Maharaj 3-0-33-0.
Result: NZ won by nine wickets
Player-of-the-Match: Finn Allen

IPL OPENER ON MARCH 28, SCHEDULE TO BE OUT IN 2 PHASES

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Mumbai: IPL 2026 will kick off on March 28 at the Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru, with the final scheduled for May 31. The opening match will feature defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru, though their opponents are yet to be decided.

"IPL 2026 will begin on March 28 in Bengaluru, and the final will be held on May 31," BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia told **TOI** on Wednesday. "The schedule for the first 20 days will be announced soon, while the schedule for the remainder of the tournament will be announced after the Election Commission of India announces the dates for the state elections," Saikia said.

How Dube became India's man for clutch moments

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Mumbai: In T20 cricket, contributions in clutch moments often matter as much as the volume of runs or wickets. Over the last two years, Shivam Dube has repeatedly delivered when India needed him most.

In the 2024 T20 World Cup final against South Africa, India were reduced to 106/4 and needed someone to support Virat Kohli and guide them to a competitive total. Rohit Sharma backed Dube's temperament, sending him ahead of Hardik Pandya. The left-hander responded with a crucial 16-ball 27 as he shared a 57-run fifth-wicket stand with Kohli, helping India reach 176/7.

Last year, in the Asia Cup final against Pakistan, Dube was again pushed up the order, this time ahead of Rinku Singh, and once again rose to the occasion. Walking in with India at 77/4, he stitched a 40-ball 60-run partnership with Tilak Varma to steer India to a five-wicket win, scoring a 22-ball 33.

Shivam Dube has played key roles with the bat but he would love to make a contribution with the ball too

The 32-year-old has continued to make timely contributions in this edition of the T20 World Cup and will look to do so again when India face England in Thursday's semifinal at his home ground, the Wankhede Stadium.

It was here that Dube first grabbed attention during the inaugural T20 Mumbai League, smashing five sixes in an over for Shivaji Park Lions. He repeated the feat in a Ranji Trophy match against Baroda in 2018 and earned an IPL contract the following year.

In this World Cup, Dube didn't get going early against the USA and Namibia, but his batting has gathered momentum as the tournament progressed. His 17-ball 27 against Pakistan and a fluent 31-ball 66 against the Netherlands were widely praised, while his quick eight off four balls against the West Indies in the last match helped seal India's place in the semifinals. The Chennai Super Kings all-rounder drew praise after that game, with head coach Gautam Gambhir and lead pacer Jasprit Bumrah highlighting the importance of his brief cameo.

"For me, Shivam's two boundaries are as important as Sanju's 97 because if he hadn't hit those two boundaries, that knock might not even have been talked about," Gambhir said. "The big contributions make headlines, but the small ones help the team cross the line."

Bumrah echoed that sentiment in a video posted by the ICC on Instagram. "The two fours that Dube hit — not many will appreciate that. But people who understand cricket know those two boundaries released the pressure," he said.

While Dube has been consistent with the bat, India would like more impact from him with the ball, where he has been expensive. Bowling coach Morne Morkel believes it is more about execution than form. "I don't think it's a loss of bowling form," Morkel said on Wednesday. "Shivam knows his game pretty well. Sometimes the thinking behind the delivery is right, but the execution hasn't been as good."

Morkel added that improving his decision-making with the ball will be key. "Teams are going to go after him, but that also creates wicket-taking opportunities. If he can be a little smarter and execute better, it'll make a big difference."

Early in his international career, Dube struggled against short-pitched pace but worked hard in the nets to overcome that weakness. India will hope he can produce a similar turnaround with the ball as well.

Ahead of semis, Varun puts in massive shift with coach Morkel

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Mumbai: Wednesday's nets session was an optional one, but Varun Chakravarthy was out there, alongside bowling coach Morne Morkel, slogging it out in searing heat.

The focus throughout the session, and during the mammoth one that India put in on Tuesday evening, was on the length he needs to hit against England in the semifinal at the Wankhede Stadium on Thursday.

Varun started the T20 World Cup campaign with a bang, ending the four-match group stage with nine wickets at a strike rate of 8. But in the Super Eights, while bowling against stronger opponents, he was found somewhat wanting. In the three games, he took just two wickets at a strike-rate of 24 and conceded 10.16 runs per over, which is much higher than his career economy rate of 7.23. He finished with figures of 1/47 against South Africa, 1/35 against Zimbabwe and 1/40 against West Indies.

Against South Africa, David Miller, Dewald Brevis and Tristan Stubbs showed the courage to take on the mystery spinner. As a result, he erred in his line and length—bowling a bit short or fuller when put under pressure—which brought him into the batters' arc to hit him down the ground or either side of the wicket. The story repeated against the West Indies in the last match at the Eden Gardens, with Shimron Hetmyer and Jason Holder going after the Kolkata Knight Riders' spinner. When the batters took him on, they curtailed his ability to apply the squeeze in the middle overs and take wickets to keep the opponents on the mat.

AP

Varun is still among the top-five wicket-takers in this edition with 12 scalps, but teams seem to have dissected his variations, especially the googly, which has been his go-to delivery to take wickets. Almost 75% of his wickets in T20Is have come with the googly. When he has bowled the googly at pace, rival batters have played him as an incoming bowler and tried to hit him straighter. When he has got one to turn away, batters have backed themselves and adjusted.

With the likes of Phil Salt, Jos Buttler, Harry Brook, Jacob Bethell and Will Jacks in their ranks, England will take a cue from Varun's outings against South Africa and West Indies, make use of the shorter boundaries and put the 34-year-old under pressure.

During the media interaction, Morkel revealed that discussions with Varun centred around getting "clarity" of his plans a day ahead of the match and "allowing him to walk away feeling good about his body".

"With the variations that Varun's got, he's got the ability to take a wicket with almost every ball. So, the discussion was that if he goes for a boundary, the aim is to move on to the next one and make sure he commits to that next ball. He's hard to pick once you walk into the crease. So, for him it's just about getting that confidence into the ball, getting his speed, his length and control right," said Morkel.

VARUN IN THE WORLD CUP SO FAR

	M	W	BB	Avg	ER	SR
Overall	7	12	3/7	15.33	7.66	12
Group	4	9	3/7	6.88	5.16	8
Super 8s	3	3	1/35	40.66	10.16	24

SNAP SHOTS

Aarav is India's 93rd chess GM

Mumbai's Aarav Dengla has become India's 93rd chess Grandmaster. The 17-year-old achieved his first GM norm in 2022 and it took three years for him to complete all the formalities of earning the coveted title. When Aarav completed his final norm in January by winning the Open tournament in Bosnia, he took his classical rating to 2506 Elo and attained the mandatory formality. The world chess federation (FIDE) accepted his application and during their first council meeting next month Aarav will officially be granted the Grandmaster title.

Rodrygo to miss World Cup: Real Madrid forward Rodrygo has a ruptured ACL and meniscus in his right knee, likely keeping him out of this summer's World Cup for his native Brazil. Rodrygo injured his leg after entering as a substitute in a 1-0 loss to Getafe in a La Liga match on Monday, Real Madrid announced on Tuesday. Rodrygo, 25, is expected to be out for up to a year if he has surgery.

Ronaldo should be fit for WC: Portuguese veteran Cristiano Ronaldo has a hamstring tendon injury, his Saudi Arabian club Al-Nassr announced on Tuesday, but his participation in the 2026 World Cup does not appear to be in doubt. According to some media outlets, the 41-year-old captain of the Portuguese national team is expected to be sidelined for between two and four weeks, meaning he should be up and running before the World Cup starts on June 11.

Pak drop Babar: Pakistan dropped batting great Babar Azam on Wednesday for next week's ODI series in Bangladesh, bringing in six uncapped players with an eye on next year's World Cup. **Squad:** Shaheen Shah Afridi (captain), Abdul Samad, Abrar Ahmed, Faheem Ashraf, Faisal Akram, Haris Rauf, Hussain Talat, Maaz Sadaqat, Mohammad Rizwan, Mohammad Wasim, Muhammad Ghazi Ghori, Saad Masood, Sahibzada Farhan, Salman Ali Agha, Shamyl Hussain

PCB offers head coach role to Sarfaraz: The Pakistan Test squad is set to have its youngest ever head coach with the Pakistan Cricket Board offering the role to former captain Sarfaraz Ahmed. The PCB is awaiting his confirmation. At 38 years Sarfaraz would be the youngest to be given the responsiblity of being head coach of the Test side.

India go down in extra time

Experienced Vietnam Strike Late To Snatch 2-1 Victory

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Nobody can grudge an experienced Vietnam of their 2-1 win, but India will feel terribly disappointed of not securing at least a point, having conceded the winner in the fourth minute of second half extra time in their AFC Women's Asian Cup group opener at the Perth Rectangular Stadium on Wednesday.

Ngan Thi Van Su was at the heart of Vietnam's domination, scoring both goals, once in either half. India believed they had salvaged an important point after Sanfida Nongrum came off the bench to draw level, but a late strike undid all efforts.

"We are feeling bad about the goal (conceded in extra time) but we gave our 100%,"

AFC ASIAN CUP

Sanfida, the first player from Meghalaya to play for the national team and score on debut, said after the game. "We learned so much from this game. (It showed) we have to give our best and keep fighting till the end."

The Indian team could hardly be faulted for effort. Qualifying for the Asian Cup on merit for the first time in 23 years, the team coached by Costa Rican Amelia Valverde was outplayed in the first half as Vietnam showed why it's a regular at Asian Cups and made appearances at the World Cup.

In the second half, however, a double substitution gave India momentum and a way back into the game with Sanfida scoring the equaliser, seven minutes after taking the field.

Vietnam were hard to catch in the first half as they pressed high and hardly gave India time on the ball. It was Van Su who first fired wide from distance and then Nguyen Thi Bich Thuy beat the offside trap before rattling the woodwork from distance.

Vietnam's sustained pressure bore fruit at the half an hour mark after India failed to deal with Thai Thi Thao's cross into the box, allowing Nguyen Thi Bich Thuy to tee-up Van Su to finish with a curling effort over goalkeeper Panthoi Chanu.

Vietnam had a scrappy goal disallowed for offside at the beginning of the first half, a moment that stopped India from being deflated. Two half-time substitutes, young Sanfida and Rimpa Haldar, then turned the match on its head as Rimpa pressed the opponent, forcing a hurried back pass which Sanfida intercepted in the 52nd minute and calmly lifted the ball past Vietnam the keeper.

India then enjoyed a couple of chances with Manisha Kalyan, moved centrally from the wing, combining well with Sanfida and Pyari Xaxa before the effort was pushed for a corner. From the resultant corner, Manisha – who now plies her trade in South America – tried an Olimpico, only for the defenders to somehow keep the ball out at the near post.

India goalkeeper Panthoi had a good game and kept India in the hunt for a point with a brilliant save to deny Van Su. The Vietnam star, however, was not to be denied in the fourth minute of added time as she capitalised after India failed to clear Vu Thi Hoa's long cross, with the midfielder producing a sublime finish to seal the win.

AIFF

IN VAIN: India's Sanfida Nongrum (right) celebrates after scoring the equaliser against Vietnam

Satwik-Chirag, Ayush exit early

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Unlike on the opening day when Lakshya Sen took out the world No. 1, the top Indian doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty failed to make an impression and exited early at the All England championships in Birmingham on Wednesday. The former world No.1 Indian duo lost to Araon Tai and Khang Khai Xing 23-21,

ALL ENGLAND

21-12. This is the biggest victory for the 19-year-old Malaysian left-right combination, the 2024 world junior champion pair, on the senior circuit.

Ayush Shetty went down fighting to Alwi Fardhan of Indonesia 21-19, 9-21, 17-21 in the men's singles first round. The mixed doubles pair of Rohan Kapoor and Ruthvika Shivani also lost 12-21, 15-21 to Thom Gicquel and Delphine Delrue of France.

ANI

TOUGH LUCK: Ayush Shetty

Satwik-Chirag were cruising at 11-6 in the first game before the teens halted their surge with a barrage of smashes and won 12 of the next 17 points to lead 18-16.

At 17-18, Chirag made a service error but earned the next point with a brilliant service return. At 18-19, Xing secured the first game point with a full-blooded smash. The Indians saved four game points only to succumb. At 21-21, after a series of exchanges, Satwik failed to retrieve a hard push from Tai. At 22-21, Xing surprised the Indians with an accurate smash to clinch the game.

The Indians were in the second game only till 6-6 as Aron-Kang won five of the next six points to lead 11-7 at the break. Finding placements with ease, the Malaysians were at their aggressive best and most of the smashes kissed the lines. The hard-hitting Indians were beaten at their own game by the new entrants, who are playing their first Super-1000 tournament. They had won the Syed Modi and Guwahati Masters Super-100 titles last year.

On Tuesday night, two-time semifinalists Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand suffered a 15-21, 21-15, 18-21 loss to Sayaka Hirota and Ayako Sakuramoto of Japan. Unnati Hooda lost to Thailand's Pornpawee Chochuwong 12-21, 18-21 as India's challenge in women's singles ended.

Resurgent Wolves stun Liverpool

Liverpool: Resurgent bottom club Wolverhampton Wanderers stunned Liverpool with a last-gasp 2-1 win at a rocking Molineux on Tuesday to offer a glimpse of a miraculous escape from relegation while putting a big dent in the top-five hopes of Arne Slot's side.

FOOTBALL WRAP

A dull game burst into life in the final stages with Rodrigo Gomes putting the hosts ahead only for Mohamed Salah to level with his first Premier League goal since November. But a deflected effort by Andre wrong-footed keeper Alisson in the 94th minute to seal a second successive win for Wolves who also beat Aston Villa at home on Friday – manager Rob Edwards celebrating with a wild sprint down the touchline.

AFP

WINNING GOAL: Andre

ATLETICO REACH FINAL

Atletico Madrid struggled through a 3-0 Copa del Rey semifinal second leg defeat at Barcelona on Tuesday but scraped into the final 4-3 on aggregate. The Spanish champions almost produced a comeback for the ages after their 4-0 first leg defeat in early February, but fell just short at Camp Nou.

Results: EPL: Bournemouth 0 drew with Brentford 0; Everton 2 (Tarkowski 32, Dewsbury-Hall 60) bt Burnley 0; Leeds 0 lost to Sunderland 1 (Diarra 70-pen); Wolves 2 (Rodrigo Gomes 78, Andre 90+4) bt Liverpool 1 (Salah 83). AGENCIES

Players divided over best-of-5 Slam proposal

World number one Aryna Sabalenka on Tuesday voiced her support for a proposal to make women's matches best-of-five sets during the later stages of Grand Slam tournaments. The hard-hitting Sabalenka said she believed switching to five sets would benefit her game.

"Yeah, let's do that," the four-time Grand Slam singles champion said when

TENNIS

asked about the idea, which was floated by incoming US Tennis Association chief Craig Tiley at the Australian Open earlier this year.

"I feel like I would have probably more Grand Slams," Sabalenka added. "Physically I'm really strong, and I'm pretty confident that my body can handle that. So let's do it."

Tiley, the former head of the Australian Open who last week was named as the new USTA chief, told the New York Times in an interview last month that switching to five sets from the quarterfinals onwards at Grand Slams should be discussed.

But while Sabalenka, who announced her engagement to Georgios Frangulis, backed the move, other women players were more circumspect. "I mean, it probably would favour me, because I'm physically up there with the best, but I mean, I probably wouldn't want to see that happen," reigning French Open champion Coco Gauff said. "And if it were to happen, I would prefer it to be the whole tournament, not just the quarters. I think changing the format in the middle of the tournament defeats the purpose of the playing field."

Former World No. 1 Iga Swiatek was firmly against the idea, and questioned the suggestion it would boost audiences. "I think honestly it's a weird approach in the world where everything is becoming faster, you know," Swiatek said.

World No. 5 Jessica Pegula echoed Swiatek's remarks, stating while five sets were well within the physical capabilities of women, a switch could be counter-productive.

Getty Images/Reuters

OPPOSING VIEWS: Aryna Sabalenka (left) and Coco Gauff

RAGE ROOM FINDS BACKING

Sabalenka likes the idea of 'rage rooms' at tournaments where players can vent their frustrations away from the cameras, though the world number one said there would be nothing left to destroy after she uses it. Sabalenka's comments came after the ATX Open in Austin, Texas launched a rage room in response to Coco Gauff's racket-smashing incident at the Australian Open, where the American was unaware her frustrations at losing in the quarter-finals were being broadcast worldwide.

Sabalenka, who has had her own moments of frustration, was enthusiastic about the concept.

"Oh, that's cool, let's do that," she told reporters on Tuesday in the buildup to the Indian Wells tournament. "But I think after me there will be nothing to destroy.

"I would be there the whole day." When asked about the rage room concept in Austin, Gauff was stunned to learn it was not an AI-generated fake.

"That was real? I thought it was an AI, my mom sent it to me, and I told her it was AI," she said. "She believes so many AI things." AGENCIES

Champion Aravindh gets better off Gukesh

Prague: Defending champion Aravindh Chithambaram found a textbook-style tactic to outwit compatriot D Gukesh, relegating the reigning FIDE world champion to the last spot after the end of sixth round of Masters section of Prague International Chess Festival here.

The victory for Aravindh meant that Gukesh is now ranked number 20 on the live

CHESS

rating list that did not feature Viswanathan Anand due to his possibly inactive status. There has been a clear struggle for Gukesh to maintain his status as the world champion since he won the title in Dec 2024.

Possibly the only exception was the Tata Steel Masters in January 2025 when he lost the tiebreaker to R Praggnanandhaa after tying for first place. A recent slum has now seen the world champion losing over fifty points in rating. For the record Aravindh finally changed to a Sicilian defense as black after his Philidor experiment failed miserably. Going for the complications for Gukesh was easy as he sacrificed a pawn to find some tactics in the early stages of the middle game. Aravindh would have been happy with a draw the way the position unfolded with white having a rook against two knights. But, on the 40th move, with seconds remaining Gukesh made the decisive error. It was all over eight moves later.

Jorden van Foreest remained in sole lead on 4.5 points drawing with local star David Navara. PTI

Ankita, Zeel hit cruise mode

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ankita Raina and Zeel Desai advanced to the second round of the ITF W35 Kalaburagi on Wednesday with confident opening-round victories, while Karnataka's Soha Sadiq showed early promise before bowing out after a dramatic shift in momentum at the Chandrashekhar Patil Stadium in Kalaburagi.

Eighth seed Ankita produced a composed perform-

ITF W35

ance to defeat fellow Indian Sonal Patil 6-1, 6-3. Fifth seed Zeel also progressed after a strong showing against fellow Indian Jennifer Luikham, with a 6-2, 6-4 win.

Earlier in the day, Karnataka's Soha Sadiq delighted the home crowd with a blistering start against Singapore's Eva Marie Desvignes, surging to a 4-0 lead in the opening set. However, the tide turned dramatically as Desvignes clawed her way back into the contest, eventually winning 7-5, 6-0 to end Sadiq's campaign.

There was disappointment for another Indian contender as Shrivalli Bhamidipaty was forced to retire against Elena Burdina due to a medical condition.

Top seed Jasmijn Gimbrere progressed comfortably with a 6-2, 6-1 win over Aishwarya Jadhav, while sixth seed Thasaporn Naklo also advanced with a 6-3, 6-2 victory over Valeria Savinykh.

Results (1st round): 8-Ankita Raina bt Sonal Patil 6-1, 6-3; 5-Zeel Desai bt Jennifer Luikham 6-2, 6-4; 1-Jasmijn Gimbrere bt Aishwarya Jadhav 6-2, 6-1; 6-Thasaporn Naklo bt Valeria Savinykh 6-3, 6-2; Polina Kuharenko bt Akanksha Dileep Nitture 6-2, 6-1; Anna Sedyasheva bt Sandeepthi Singh Rao 6-2, 6-4; Eva Marie Desvignes bt Soha Sadiq 7-5, 6-0; Elina Nepliy bt Kashish Bhatia 6-0, 6-4; Evgeniya Burdina bt 4-Shrivalli Rashmikaa Bhamidipaty 5-1 (retd.)

TAKE THAT: Zeel Desai outplayed compatriot Jennifer Luikham

Piastri cool on prospects of breakthrough win

Melbourne: Oscar Piastri has moved to cool expectations of a drought-breaking win at his home Australian Grand Prix, insisting McLaren are not the dominant force that arrived at Albert Park 12 months ago.

After seven race wins last season and a third-placing in the drivers championship, Piastri has generated huge buzz in his hometown Melbourne and is expected to draw record crowds for his

FORMULA ONE

bid to become the first home winner since the race joined Formula One in 1985.

McLaren qualified both cars at the front of the grid last year and Lando Norris won the season-opener on a wet track, but Piastri said he had "no idea" whether he could win this year as the team grapples with F1's biggest technical overhaul in decades. "Based off testing, we seem like we're in the mix at the front," he said. "I certainly wouldn't be saying that we're favourite to be winning. The picture doesn't look quite as positive for us at the moment as it did 12 months ago. "We're in the mix, but we need to find a bit more."

Piastri led last year's championship by 34 points before a mid-season slump opened the door for British teammate Norris to claim his maiden title. He said the disappointment of missing out had faded and he had little time to dwell on the past due to the short off-season and the need to get up to speed with the technical changes.

He also said he felt no extra burden to perform at his home race, a year after finishing ninth following a skid into grass. "Obviously last year's race didn't end how I wanted, but you know, there's no extra pressure to try and make up for that or anything," he said. "We've got enough challenges to not be worrying about that."

Defending champion Norris may again loom as his toughest adversary, even with pre-season buzz surrounding Mercedes and Ferrari following their positive winter testing. McLaren gave equal treatment to Piastri and Norris last year, although there were controversies involving the application of the team's so-called 'Papaya Rules'.

One involved the Australian letting Norris past after a botched pitstop by the team at Monza. Piastri said any issues from last season had been dealt with internally and the team had moved on. "We're not going to be swapping each other around for no reason (when racing)," he said.

"Again, if there's any issues or tense moments that arise, then we'll deal with it as a team, as we do and try to make some progress." REUTERS

Getty Images

SETTING THE PACE: Oscar Piastri will bid to become the first home winner at the Australian GP since the race joined F1 in 1985

Vanguards prevail

Bengaluru: Bangalore Vanguards began their campaign in the Mathru Cup state-level basketball championship for women, with a hard-fought 38-34 win over Bharath Sports Union. At the Sree Kanteerava Stadium here on Wednesday, Vanguards took a slender 15-12 lead at half-time and then built on it. Aditi top-scored for the winners with 24 points. In another match, Young Orions Sports Club registered a 48-28

BASKETBALL

victory against the Bangalore Sporting BC. **Results:** Bangalore Vanguards: 38 (Aditi 24, Prashitha 9) bt Bharath Sports Union: 34 (Archana 12, Miriam 8) HT: 15-12; JSC: 52 (Tharushi 18, Sharleen 12) bt YMMA BC: 23 (Anjalee 13) HT: 35-10; Pattabhiramanagar BC: 35 (Gauri 13, Hansika 9) bt Koramangla BC: 24 (Hrishita 12, Shreya Shetty 5) HT: 17-14; Young Orions SC 48 (Bindu 13, Isabel 11) bt Bangalore Sporting BC 28 (Vaishnavi 9) HT: 27-14; Viveks SC 55 (Vedika 18, Sreshta 13) bt Kolar: 4 HT: 29-2; All Stars BC, Mysuru: 41 (Shravani 14, Lahari 10) bt MCHS BC: 36 (Nishevitha 10, Livdeep 8) HT: 26-14. TNN

Three state wrestlers win bronze

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Karnataka wrestlers won three bronze medals in the U-15 National wrestling championship in Salem, Tamil Nadu. In the Greco-Roman category, Sairam from Belagavi finished on the podium in the 38kg category while Davanagere's Karthik achieved the same feat in the 52kg class. In the women's wrestling, Janavi from Dharwad bagged a bronze in the 46kg class.

MSRIT & DSCE in final: MSRIT and DSCE qualified for the final of the Dr MS Ramaiah

CITY ROUND-UP

Memorial state level inter-engineering colleges cricket tournament in Bengaluru on Wednesday. In a league match at the BEL Ground, MSRIT 'A' clinched a 48-run win over MSRIT 'B'. In the day's other match, DSCA handed RVCE a 77-run defeat. **Brief scores: MSRIT 'A': 207 all out in 27.5 overs** (Chinmay 61, Rohan 46, Sreecharan 43; Vikas 3-31, Sidvin 2-42) bt **MSRIT 'B': 159/7 in 30 overs** (Adhoksh 45, Guru Shreyas 26, Sidvin 26; Keshav 2-15, Kummitha 2-23). **DSCE: 215/3 in 30 overs** (Sai Nandan 72, Rohith V 61, Vibhu 34) bt **RVCE: 138 all out in 23.3 overs** (Kaustubh 55; Rohith 5-37).

Koushik, Shivaraj power K'taka Postal SC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Karnataka Postal Sports Club rode on Koushik BP and Shivaraj R's all-round efforts to claim a 69-run win against CMTI Club in the KSCA Group II (Division II) league-cum-knockout tournament here recently.

Invited to bat, Shivaraj (52) and J Koushik (52) struck half-centuries to power Postal to 171/5 in 20 overs. Koushik BP (32) and Vishwas Dravid (17) gave Postal a steady start, adding 44 off 32 deliveries. Although they lost a couple of quick wickets, Shivaraj and J Koushik's fourth wicket association of 86 ensured a competitive total. In reply, CMTI Club folded up for 102 in 17.3 overs. Koushik BP ripped through the lineup with a five-wicket haul, while Akash LN lent apt support, picking up three wickets. Shivaraj chipped in with two wickets as Postal wrapped up a comfortable win.

Brief scores: Karnataka Postal: 171/5 in 20 overs (Koushik BP 32, Shivaraj R 52, J Koushik 52; Phaniraj HS 2-24) bt **CMTI Club: 102 in 17.3 overs** (Manjunath KN 31, Phaniraj HS 26; Akash LN 3-22, Koushik BP 5-21, Shivaraj R 2-18). **ADE SC: 173/6 in 20 overs** (Pratham R 71, Shabahat Hussain 28; Saurabh Yadav B 2-24, Ravi Kumar 2-29) bt **BDSA, SWR, B'luru: 110/7 in 20 overs** (Varun K 30, Saurabh Yadav 42 n.o; Pravesh KM 2-12, Pratham R 3-10). **EPF: 127/8 in 20 overs** (Kotikalapudi Rao 48 n.o; Somashekara Murthy 2-15) lost to **KSP: 128/6 in 17.1 overs** (Rakesh NK 40, Dadapeer B 35 n.o; Kotikalapudi Rao 2-33, Anil Kumar 3-26). **Karnataka Govt Sect: 132/8 in 20 overs** (P Yathisha 38, Krishna KV 27 n.o; Murali HM 3-13) bt **BHEL EDN SC: 130 in 20 overs** (Mahesh Acharya 35; Muralidhara J 2-20, P Yatisha 2-21, Santhosh Kumar 2-23). **Railway Institute: 173/3 in 20 overs** (Shashidhar HS 101 (58b; 9x4; 4x6), Likith Gowda 61 n.o; Murali N 2-29) bt **Bangalore Dairy SC: 112 in 19.3 overs** (Murali N 43; Sitaram Meena 2-4, Akhil UK 4-7, Somala Kumar 3-26). **Contintental Auto: 188/4 in 20 overs** (Thejas L 41, Rishab Krish 64, Karthik J; Bhanu Prakash 2-46) bt **ITI: 114 in 16 overs** (Srinivasa Murthy 38; Thejas L 3-7, Rishab Krish 2-22, Karthik J 3-33). **BEMRC: 105/7 in 20 overs** (Nikhil Gowda 3-21, Shane Ryan 2-17, Naveen Kumar 2-11) lost to **Triton SC, Mysuru: 109/3 in 12.1 overs** (Srithan V 42, Ishaan S 37). **ABB: 108/9 in 20 overs** (David Bird 3-11) lost to **Titan: 109/1 in 9.1 overs** (Mohith BA 65 n.o, Karna Vamshi 32 n.o). **Bosch SC, Bangalore: 144/6 in 20 overs** (Sriranganatha Rao 31, Sharath Srinivas 45; Manjunath MR 3-29) bt **NAL: 123/9 in 20 overs** (Umesh KR 25, Praveen Kumar 31 n.o; Sriranganatha Rao 4-18, Naresh S 2-22). **BEML (2) SC, Mysuru: 228/6 in 20 overs** (Aadesh Urs 95, Mohith L 48, Prajwal Kumar 32; Naveen Kumara 2-32, Umesha Basavaraja 2-24) bt **ITC SC: 119/9 in 20 overs** (Chandrashekar R 27; Roshan Raju 4-6, Girisha J 2-23).

Five-star Darshan shines

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Pacer Darshan MB (5/30) claimed a five wicket haul to power Central Excise & Customs to a 43-run victory over AGORC in the KSCA Group II (I Division) league-cum-knockout-tournament here recently.

Put in to bat, Excise openers Snehal Kauthankar (84, 43b), and Niranjan (92, 53b)

KSCA TOURNEY

put on solid show with their 144-run stand. Skipper Samarth R chipped in with 30 as they ended with a massive 225/4 in 20 overs.

AGORC faltered during their chase and were reduced to 28/3 in 3.2 overs with Darshan taking two wickets. They lost wickets at regular intervals and even a 78-run sixth-wicket partnership between Kiran AM (13) and MS Bhandage (67) did not make much of a difference. AGORC were eventually restricted to 182/8.

Brief scores: Central Excise & Customs: 225/4 in 20 overs (Snehal Kauthankar 84, Niranjan 92, Samarth R 30; Sunil Kumar 2-22) bt **AGORC: 182/8 in 20 overs** (Nikin Jose 35, Manoj Bhandage 67; Darshan MB 5-30). **HAL SC: 108/9 in 20 overs** (Sumukha Prasad 28; Vikas Chanalia 2-24, Vikas Doddamani 2-20, Abhishek HR 2-31, Sachin Gankal 2-14) lost to **Dell CC: 114/6 in 14.2 overs** (Dileep Kumar 3-33, Rahul Prasanna 2-20). **State Bank of India: 150/8 in 20 overs** (Prakhar Chaturvedi 35; Pradeep T 3-31, Anand Doddamani 2-22) lost to **RWF SA: 156/2 in 16.2 overs** (Sagar Solanki 63, Rohan Patil 58 n.o).

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Top-ranked tennis player Aryna Sabalenka announces engagement to Brazilian businessman Georgios Frangulis, posts video of the proposal on Instagram

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The project is registered as 'Nexspace, Godrej City, Panvel' under MahaRERA No. PC1270002501723 available at https://maharera.maharashtra.gov.in. This Project is being developed by Caroa Properties LLP (Developer) wherein Godrej Properties Limited is a partner. The Sale is subject to terms of Application Form and Agreement for Sale. All specifications of the unit shall be as per the final agreement between the Parties. Recipients are advised to apprise themselves of the necessary and relevant information of the project prior to making any purchase decisions. The official website of Godrej Properties Ltd. is www.godrejproperties.com. Please do not rely on the information provided on any other website. [1]This refers to minute drive time. Drive time refers to the approximate drive duration by four wheeler as provided above and the same is as per Google Maps recorded on 20th February 2026 at 6 am | [2]Upcoming NAINA, https://cidco.maharashtra.gov.in/naina#gsc.tab=0 | [3]Source: https://www.newsonair.gov.in/maharashtra-cm-devendra-fadnavis-says-mous-worth-%E2%82%B930-lakh-crore-signed-at-world-economic-forum-davos/ | [4]Upcoming Navi Mumbai Special Economic Zone, https://www.ibef.org/news/rils-navi-mumbai-project-may-attract-us-75-bn-investments-in-over-10-years". [5]Mumbai Metro Gold Line (Line 8), https://www.mmmocl.co.in/project_brief | Navi Mumbai Metro Line 1, 2, 3 & 4, https://cidco.maharashtra.gov.in/Page?Token=76747ABE287 | [6]Upcoming Virar-AlibaugMultimodalCorridor, https://www.mmrda.maharashtra.gov.in/en/photo-gallery/multimodal-corridor-virar-alibaug#gsc.tab=0 | [7]As per the findings based on the study done on Godrej City, Panvel, Godrej Golf Side Estate and Godrej Golf Side Estate II by CRE Matrix for growth rate between FY 2024 to FY 2026 for the respective asset classes, calculated on the APR of the carpet/plot area |
[8]Source: https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/brand-connect/godrej-fund-management-and-the-government-of-maharashtra-sign-mou-at-the-waves-summit-2025-for-the-development-of-a-state-of-the-art-film-television-and-media-campus-at-godrej-city-panvel-13013114.html. **The school is a part of Integrated Township which is to be developed by SNBP Group of Institutes as may be approved by approving authority from time to time. The infrastructure facilities mentioned are proposed to be developed by the Government and other authorities and we cannot predict the timing or the actual provisioning of these facilities, as the same is beyond our control. We shall not be responsible or liable for any delay or non-provisioning of the same. The projects are registered as The Trees, Origins with MahaRERA No. P51800000158 (being developed by Godrej Projects Development Limited), Godrej Golf Side Estate and Godrej Golf Side Estate II with MahaRERA No. P52000054914 and P52000079895 respectively (being developed by Godrej Hillside Properties Pvt. Ltd.) all available at website: https://maharera.maharashtra.gov.in. **Godrej Golf Side Estate and Godrej Golf Side Estate II is not a part of the Integrated Township, but adjacent to Godrej City, Panvel. *Godrej One, Godrej Two and Godrej BKC are developed by Godrej Fund Management which is a real estate private equity arm of the Godrej Industries Group. The developer is providing only bare shell office spaces. *Indicative agreement value which excludes Stamp Duty & Registration Charges, GST & Other Applicable Charges. #This refers to the discounted Indicative agreement value (inclusive of the ~10% pricing benefit) which excludes Stamp Duty & Registration Charges, GST & Other Applicable Charges. ^Offer window refers to Expression of Interest window. !May vary basis actual unit selected. Basis sole discretion of the developer. Offer valid till 8th March 2026, subject to change basis sole discretion of the developer. 1 sq.m. = 10.7639 sq.ft. The content herein are provided by the advertiser, BCCL does not endorse or guarantee the contents or claims made nor shall be liable for any loss on account of the Ad. Readers are advised to conduct independent verification before making any decisions. Date of publication: 5th March 2026. T&C Apply.

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PANVEL, MUMBAI 3.0

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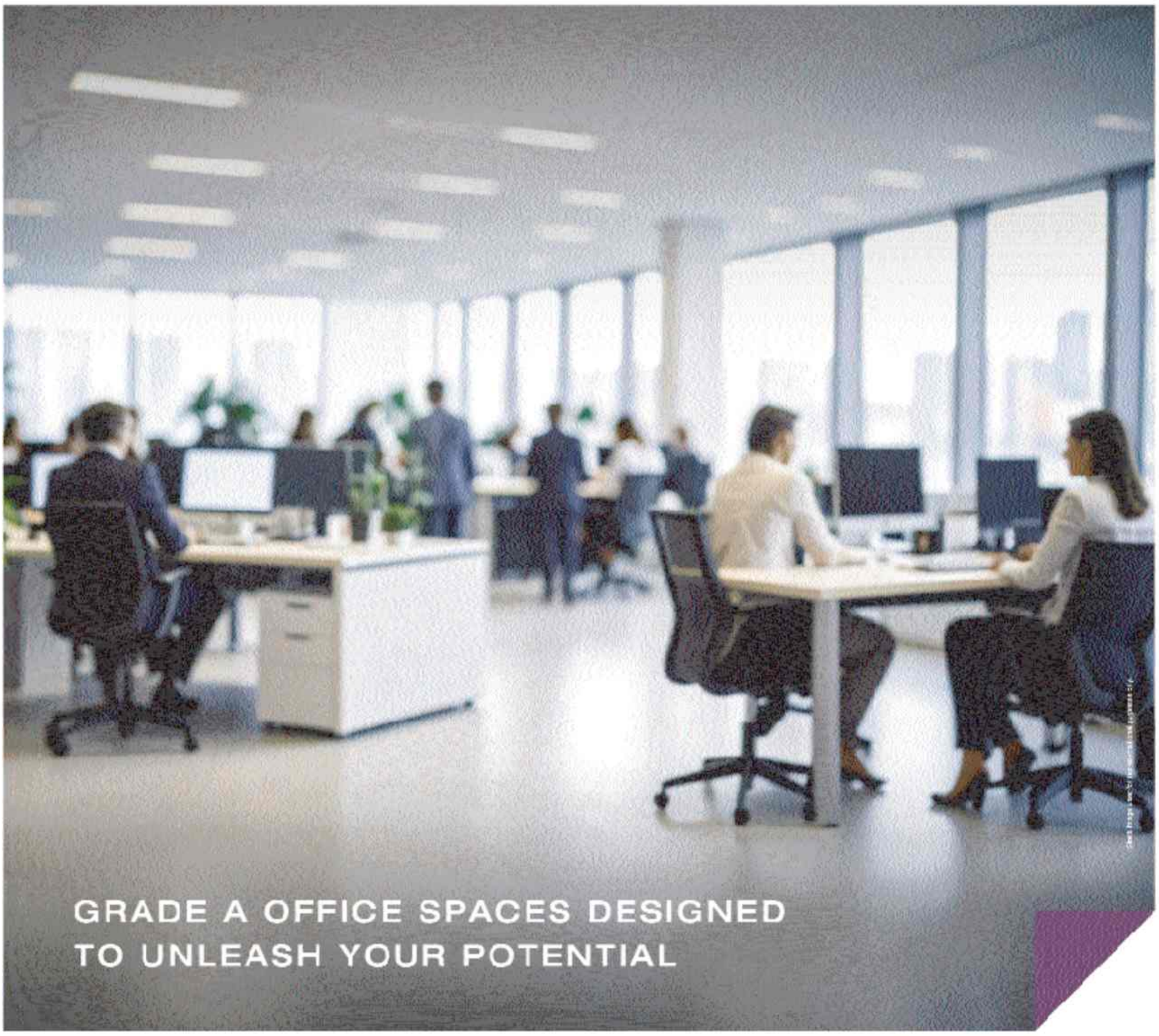
INTRODUCING

NEXSPACE

A WORLD THAT WORKS FOR YOU



Global Investment Hub[1]
20 mins[2] from Navi Mumbai Intl. Airport

Growing Office Demand
in Mumbai 3.0[2]

Godrej City CAGR FY 24-26^:
Plots[3]: 17.80% | Residential: 15.60%

High Rental Yield &
Capital Appreciation Potential

SCAN TO BOOK

OFFER WINDOW ENDS IN FOUR DAYS ON 8TH MARCH 2026^

GRADE A OFFICE SPACES STARTING AT ₹79 LAKH+#

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